

gay community news

Vol. 5, No. 19 November 12, 1977

The Gay Weekly

35¢

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Cambridge
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**Phyllis
Schlafly
Anti-
E.R.A.
Crusader**



Photo by Nancy Wechsler

gay community news

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November 12, 1977

News Analysis

Council Races Top Boston, Cambridge Ballot

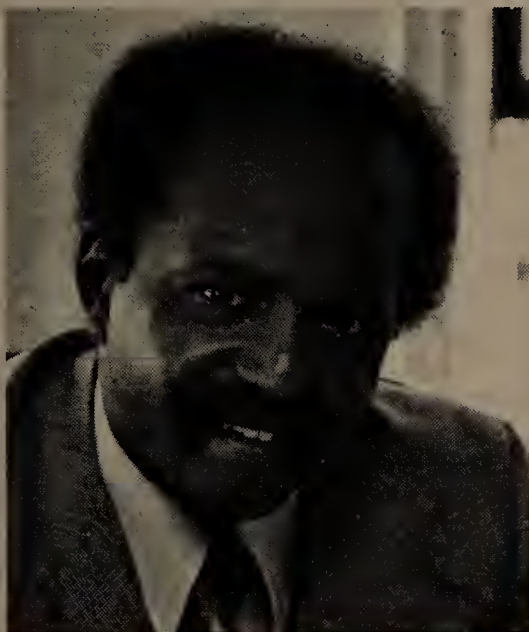
Galvin Bill Peaks Interest

By David Brill

BOSTON — The first major charter change in nearly three decades will be on Boston's November 8 ballot, and if the two questions — one each affecting the School Committee and the City Council — are approved, the present at-large election of both bodies would be changed to a combination of at-large and by-district election. The proposed new district lines have created one district that would encompass the entire Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and South End sections of the city — a district that political observers believe could easily elect a gay candidate.

The questions are popularly called the "Galvin bill," named after the proposal's sponsor, Rep. William F. Galvin (D-Brighton). Reps. Barney Frank, Elaine Noble, and Mel King have all endorsed the proposal, as did GCN in an editorial two weeks ago. At present, the City Council has nine members all elected at large, while the School Committee has five at-large members. If the Galvin bill is approved by a majority of Boston's voters on Tuesday, both bodies would have thirteen members — nine elected by districts and four at-large. The measure takes effect with the 1979 elections.

Although most of the city's legislative delegation supports the charter change, it is opposed by Mayor Kevin



School Committee candidate John O'Bryant

White, City Councillors Albert L. O'Neil, John J. Kerrigan, and Louise Day Hicks, as well as many community groups in South Boston and the southern part of Dorchester. Kerrigan and O'Neil have attempted to make a racial issue out of the referendum, since, at least one out of the 13 seats on the reorganized council would probably be held by a black person. (The Council is presently all-white). White's opposi-

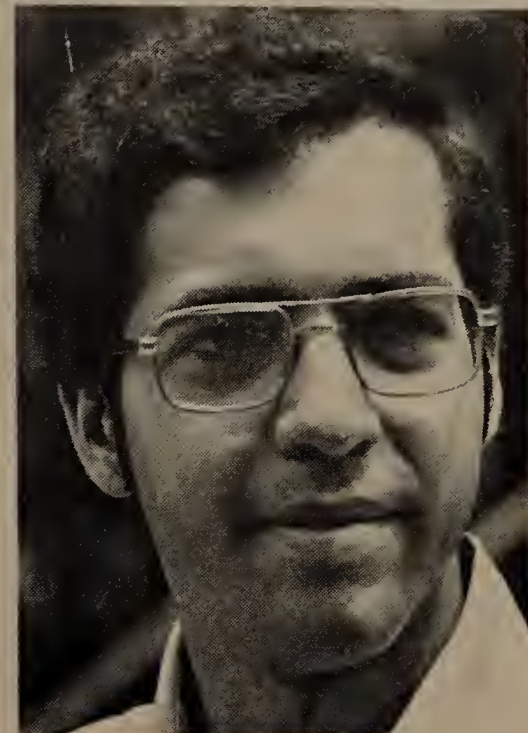
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Cambridge Gays Seek Impact

By Neil Miller

CAMBRIDGE, MA — Cambridge gay voters, who played a decisive role in Sandra Graham's upset election to the House of Representatives last year, are hoping to have a major impact in this year's city council and school committee elections. For the first time, the Cambridge Gay Political Caucus has endorsed the full slate of nine liberal Cambridge Convention '77 candidates in order of preference for city council and the four CC-endorsed candidates for school committee. For its part, the Convention pledged itself to support gay rights. If Cambridge Convention '77 candidates win a majority on this year's council, chances for approval of a human rights ordinance in Cambridge look good.

At present, the city council is divided between four Cambridge Convention liberals and four "independents" (conservatives). Mayor Al Vellucci, although ostensibly an "independent," has sided with the liberals on critical issues. However, Vellucci is believed to be politically vulnerable this year, especially after *Boston Globe* revelations that he held a "no show" state post. On the liberal side, Cambridge Convention '77 has refused to endorse incumbent councillor David Clem because of his waffling on the issue of rent control. The Convention supported Clem in the last election but



Cambridge candidate David Sullivan

without CC support this year, Clem may be in trouble.

In this fluid situation, it is possible that a liberal could be elected to replace Vellucci and perhaps another Convention endorsee might win Clem's seat. Observers believe that a strong turnout of gay voters might make a difference this year.

(Continued on page 8)

California's Sen. Briggs Withdraws Anti-Gay Initiative

SACRAMENTO, CA. — Facing a court challenge, California State Senator John Briggs has temporarily withdrawn his initiative that, if approved, would have made it possible for California school boards to fire openly gay teachers. Briggs claimed that he had gathered more than 100,000 signatures of the 312,404 signatures needed by November 15 and would have "no trouble" in obtaining the necessary number. But, because of a court challenge to the wording of the referendum by a San Francisco gay teacher, the Senator decided to withdraw the initiative in order to reformulate it. Briggs

now will start again from scratch and hopes to find enough signatures to place the proposal on next November's electoral ballot.

Briggs' action comes in response to a lawsuit filed in California Supreme Court by David Goldman, a San Francisco teacher. The Goldman suit charged that while the language of the summary of the initiative purported to deal with criminal conduct only, in fact the proposal would have applied sanctions to conduct that is legal under California law. The initiative, said Goldman, would have placed "severe restrictions" on freedom of speech of California teachers and other school

personnel.

In announcing the withdrawal of the proposal rather than go to court, Briggs said, "I'm not going to put the fate of California's children in the hands of Rose Bird." Bird is the liberal chief justice of the California Supreme Court.

It is not clear whether Briggs' decision to withdraw the referendum came because of fear of having the proposal overturned by the court because of difficulty in gaining enough signatures. The possibility of the initiative gaining a place on the ballot caused consternation in California's gay community, who were distressed by the

possibility of a Dade County-type situation developing in their state. Rev. Troy Perry of MCC/Los Angeles fasted for 15 days to raise \$100,000 to fight the initiative.

The *Los Angeles Times*, the most influential newspaper in the conservative Southern part of the state, editorially denounced the initiative last week as "backward stepping." Governor Jerry Brown has cautiously opposed the initiative, saying that he believed present state laws to be adequate. Briggs himself is a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor to oppose Brown in the 1978 election.

Anita Bryant Flees New York After Death Threats

NEW YORK — Singer and anti-gay crusader Anita Bryant has fled New York after "death threats" which she asserted were made by "militant homosexuals." Bryant was in New York to appear on the NBC-TV "Today Show." However, after three calls were made to the network threatening the singer's life, NBC officials decided to tape the show in advance and Bryant left the city after moving up a news conference originally scheduled after the show.

Bryant was accompanied to her news conference by a security guard and proclaimed that she had been forced to

turn her Miami home into a fortress because of threats. Back in Miami, her husband, Bob Green, told reporters, "If they want to kill us, let them do it."

As Bryant's image appeared on television screens across the nation, 300 gay activists demonstrated outside NBC-TV's headquarters in New York. The demonstration was called by the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights and had the support of a variety of gay groups.

Gay activists then met with NBC officials, asking them for "equal time" to counter Bryant's remarks. Although NBC officials did not make any

promises for equal time, the officials indicated that they would consider an opportunity for response.

Ginny Vida of the National Gay Task Force "deplored" threats of violence against Bryant's life. But, Vida emphasized, "things must be seen in their real context. It is gay people who are victims of violence, not Anita. We are murdered and beaten up in many places of this country. We are the real victims."

Vida had some positive words for Paul Friedman, the executive producer of the "Today" show. "My impression of him is that he is sensitive to gay people. He once told me that if he put

gay people on the same show every time he had someone anti-gay or vice-versa that would create a bad precedent. I understand that. But at the same time the community needs to be able to respond."

On the show itself, anti-gay crusader Bryant quoted scripture and said little that she hadn't said before about gay rights. When asked by interviewer Tom Brokaw if homosexuality should be "illegal," she replied, "Yes, it should be illegal." But when Brokaw asked her what sort of penalties should be levied against gay people, the singer replied, "I don't know that much about law."

news notes

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I don't happen to be a homosexual, but if I were, I hope that I wouldn't be ashamed of it. God makes you whatever you are." — Ed Koch, Democratic nominee for Mayor of New York, on WNEW news last week.

EXPERTS BACK ERA EXTENSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The US Justice Department and private legal experts told a House Judiciary Subcommittee that Congress has the authority to grant individual states an additional seven years to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The subcommittee is considering a proposed seven-year ratification extension for the ERA. Presently the deadline for ratification is slated to expire in March, 1979, and women's groups are fearful that the three states still necessary to ratify the ERA will not do so in time. So far 35 out of the required 38 states have ratified the ERA.

The Carter administration has endorsed the proposed extension of the deadline, and Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman and Margaret Heckler have emphasized that the extension was needed as an "insurance policy."

All those testifying before the committee asserted that Congress by a majority vote could grant the seven year extension. The experts did disagree among themselves about whether the decision of three states to rescind their approval of the ERA was legal. Assistant Attorney General John M. Harmon argued that once a state ratified the ERA it was "powerless to rescind that ratification."

ON PROBATION

LOS ANGELES, CA — A Los Angeles judge has ruled that an openly gay person cannot be prevented from associating with other gay people during a period of probation. Municipal Judge Jack Tsai signed an order last week revising the terms of probation for Edwin Wamble. The Judge's new order simply states that the man must obey all state laws.

Attorney Thomas Coleman had filed the petition on behalf of his client, demanding that the court lift the terms of probation imposed on Wamble last year. At that time, Wamble was barred from associating with "known homosexuals" or frequenting places where gay people congregate.

PRAISING BRYANT

LANSING, MI. — Michigan legislators are considering a resolution to praise Anita Bryant for her "courageous campaign." The resolution was proposed by 51 members of the Michigan House on October 17 and urges the singer to continue her crusade against "decadence."

People interested in protesting the resolution can write policy committee chairperson Rep. Joseph Forbes, Room 100, Mutual Building, Lansing, Michigan 48902.

OBSCENITY AND THE COURT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to take another look at the nation's obscenity laws by reviewing the conviction of a man who was found guilty of distributing sexually explicit material through the mails. The court had ruled in 1973 that juries should take "community standards" into effect when deciding obscenity cases. However the vagueness of that phrase has caused a great deal of legal confusion, and, up until now, the justices have been reluctant to clarify the issue.

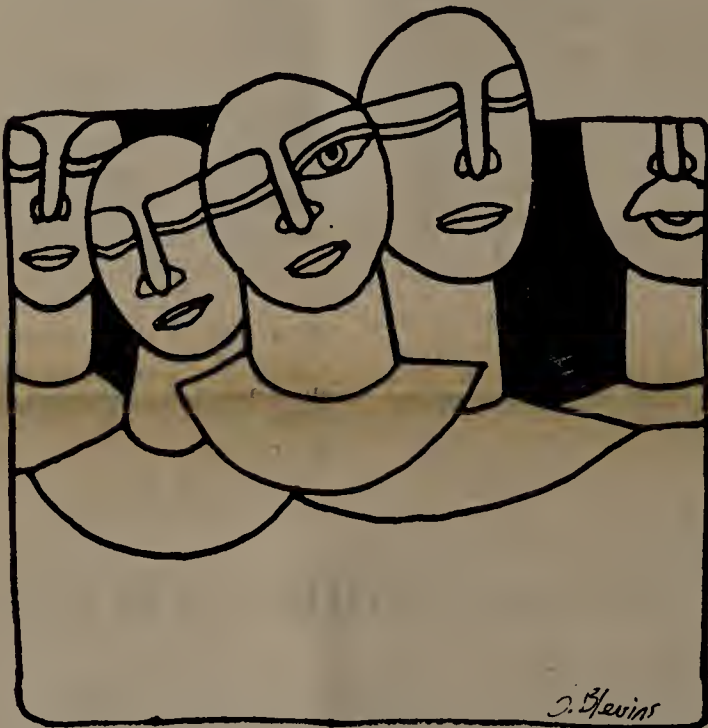
In the case which the court has decided to review (Pinkus v. United States, No. 77-39), the judge told the jury that the views of the "average" member of the community should reflect "the sensitive and the insensitive, young and old, men, women, and children." It is this definition of "average" that Pinkus is challenging in his appeal. Pinkus was convicted of 11 counts of mailing obscene material and given a four-year prison sentence and \$5,000 fine on each count.

CITRUS SQUABBLE OVER ANITA

ORLANDO, FLA. — Conflicting public statements from the Florida citrus establishment appear to indicate disagreement as to whether singer and anti-gay campaigner Anita Bryant should continue on as orange juice spokesperson. "A change will have to be made in the foreseeable future," Edward Taylor, executive director of the Florida Department of Citrus told a meeting of growers last week. "When consumers see her they don't think about orange juice, they think about the gay rights issue." Taylor asserted that Bryant's standing, especially among young people, has been slipping recently.

However, just after Taylor made his statement, Florida Citrus Commission chairperson, Dan Richardson, defended Bryant and said that the commission has no plans to curtail her orange juice commercials. It is the Citrus Commission that will decide whether or not to renew her contract when it comes up for renewal in February.

Meanwhile, singer Bryant responded by asserting that "I am clearly a victim of religious persecution . . . if they want to fire me, let them do it now and give me peace." She also noted that orange juice sales have increased 25% in the last year.



BU NEWSPAPER FUNDED

BOSTON — The Boston University Allocations Advisory Board voted 8-4 last week to give the BU Exposure \$4372 in operating funds for the present school year. The decision came after the university had refused to fund the newspaper until the Exposure agreed to submit its copy for review and editing. The Exposure staff charged that they were being censored and had hired a Boston law firm to represent them.

Under terms of the new agreement, however, the newspaper will permit a mediating faculty advisor to see each copy of the Exposure before it goes to press. The Silber Administration had been critical of Exposure articles on such controversial university issues as a tuition hike, spending policies, and union organizing on campus.

GCN, INC. ELECTS BOARD

BOSTON — GCN, Inc., the non-profit corporation that publishes Gay Community News, and A Gay Person's Guide to New England, has elected its Board of Directors and Officers for the next six months. Elected to the Board were Doug Barry, Mark DeWolfe, Robert Etherington, Gordon M. Gottlieb, Mel Horne, Anne Johnston, David Peterson, Lester Stockman, Nancy Walker, and Ken Westhassel. DeWolfe was elected president of the Corporation, Horne was elected Treasurer, and Etherington was elected as Clerk of the Corporation.

NO BAPTIST SEX CHANGES

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA — Southern Baptist officials, meeting in executive session, have voted 54-2 to ban all sex change operations at the denomination's Baptist Medical Center. The Medical Center has been one of the leading facilities in the U.S. for such surgery, and over 50 transsexuals are in preliminary stages of change, awaiting the board's decision. Operations had been suspended for the summer at the Center, pending the board meeting.

Revelations that the hospital was a major center of such operations caused a large controversy among Oklahoma Baptists. The hospital board is dominated by Baptist ministers, all of whom believe that problems that lead people to seek sex change reassignment be resolved spiritually. The hospital's advisory board, medical staff, and physicians had favored continuing the operations which had been suspended all summer.

COPPING OUT

LOS ANGELES, CA — The International Association of Chiefs of Police has adopted a resolution opposing the hiring of "admitted" homosexuals as police. The resolution was accepted without debate at the organization's meeting in Los Angeles. Los Angeles Police Chief Ed Davis declared that police positions should exclude "someone who is an open, obvious, ostentatious homosexual" because it was important that people should be able to relate to police officers.

ARRESTED AT KEN'S

BOSTON — Three gay men were arrested early Tuesday morning at Ken's Restaurant on Boylston Street in Boston. The three were charged with disorderly conduct, arraigned, and released on their own recognizance. Their case was continued until November 22.

Charging that they were harassed by the paid detail cop who works at Ken's, Officer Albert Yahnian, the men are presently preparing to file a complaint against the officer through the Internal Affairs Division of the Boston Police Department. The Internal Affairs Division investigates all complaints against police officers.

MARTIN JOINS 'CLOSET SPACE'

CAMBRIDGE, MA — Gay Legislation '77 coordinator Joe Martin has been named to the staff of Closet Space, the weekly gay radio show on WCAS-AM. The show is aired every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Martin will produce one program a month on gay male perspectives and will join the show's producer Lisa Schwartz in producing two programs a month together. Schwartz will produce the fourth segment along with other women and it will be devoted to feminism.

Martin was affiliated with WBUR's radio show "Gay Way" in 1973-74. He replaces Michael Karol, who has assisted Schwartz with the show since Ellen Davis departed last spring.

TEACHER SURVEY

ST. PAUL, MINN — A St. Paul law professor is asking gay teachers throughout the country to answer questions on homophobia in teaching positions. Both present and former teachers are asked the following questions:

- Besides yourself, how many fellow gay teachers were (are) there in your school?
- Were you (they) "in the closet"?
- If you (they) have "come out," to what extent did colleagues, supervisors, parents and students accept you?
- Have you been threatened with firing because of your sexual preference?
- Especially if you have kept your sexual preference hidden, what psychological effect has this had on you?
- And anything else you feel appropriate.

All letters will be kept in strict confidence. Although comments in the letters may not be used in the article which the author is writing, the identity of the author will not be disclosed in the article or to anyone else.

Information should be sent to Joshua Dressler, Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Mn. 55104.

Schlaflly and DeCrow Debate Feminist Issues

By Jane R. Marlowe

MEDFORD, MA — Karen DeCrow, a former president of the National Organization for Women, and Phyllis Schlaflly, opponent of abortion rights, the ERA, women's rights, and gay rights, debated at Tufts University here on Oct. 27. They responded to four questions dealing with women's rights issues, and the audience reaction appeared overwhelmingly in favor of DeCrow.

DeCrow and Schlaflly have debated several times before on the ERA. This debate touched on several issues, at the insistence of the Tufts Lecture Series. DeCrow stated after the discussion that she was pleased with this arrangement and "had never had fun doing it before."

Although a question about their views on gay rights had been scheduled, time limitations forced the organizers to cut this fifth question. Schlaflly's views on this subject were never heard, but DeCrow responded to several questions about gay rights in an interview after the debate.

In answer to the first question, "What are the implications of changing sex roles for men?" DeCrow responded that now, for the first time, men and women can be friends. Men now have the chance to be free, and to be parents, she said. "The whole macho culture is an example of how hard we have been on men. Most men do not achieve the level of superiority they are told they must."

Schlaflly denounced the refusal of many "university women" to have children. She continually addressed the "young men" in the audience, informing them that when it came time for them to settle down, they would probably find that many of their prospective wives would not be willing to provide them with families. She

blamed this on the feminist movement, and apparently feels that the only reason for marriage is raising children.

The two women were next asked, "Should women have the right to choose to have abortions?" Schlaflly absolutely opposed this right, asserting that, "Once she has conceived new life, it is someone else's body." DeCrow felt that it is pointless to discuss whether or not a woman should have an abortion because women have had abortions for thousands of years and will continue to have them: "The point is, will they be under clean, safe conditions?" she said.

To the third question, "What role should parenthood play in relation to one's role in life and career?" DeCrow responded by challenging the traditional concept of the American family. "Anti-feminists fail to realize that technology has changed what the world is like. There are no more 'Dick and Jane' families. Only seven percent of Americans live in father-headed, non-working mother families."

Schlaflly felt that motherhood is sacred and should come first in a woman's life. Despite her long list of credentials and involvements, her six children come first in her life. She went so far as to say that, "The joys of the family are a lot more rewarding than making this speech."

The last question was, "Should the ERA be ratified?" None of Schlaflly's responses were surprising, especially since she was wearing a "Stop ERA" button. She said that "the ERA denies us the right to treat people differently" and "with ERA, you don't get any rights you don't have now." She has, in the past, referred to the ERA as the "Extra Responsibilities Amendment."

There was some heckling of Schlaflly by the basically liberal Tufts audience, which often burst out in applause after



Photo by Nancy Wechsler

Former NOW president Karen DeCrow (left) looks at the list of questions to be asked during her debate with anti-ERA activist Phyllis Schlaflly (right). The moderator of the debate, held at Tufts University last week, is at center.

many of DeCrow's remarks. Most of the questions after the formal part of the debate were directed at Schlaflly. Apparently flustered, she rushed out afterwards, claiming to need to catch a plane. One participant questioned her views on the rights to abortion for rape victims, and she said that the victims can get a D&C the next day, before she's sure if she's pregnant. DeCrow caught her on that one, and the audience was in uproar when DeCrow asked, "Have we just heard that the morning-after abortion is all right?"

Schlaflly was not present at the reception after the debate, but Karen

DeCrow stayed until a Tufts janitor turned off the lights in the lounge. She kept commenting on how much fun it had been to debate Schlaflly on a variety of issues.

The debate was a topic of discussion among Tufts students for the next few days, and most felt that Schlaflly had unquestionably gotten the worst of the confrontation. "It isn't necessary to throw pies and heckle speakers like Schlaflly and Anita Bryant," said one, "because when you really listen to them, they are their own worst detractors."

Supreme Court May Consider Another Gay Case

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The United States Supreme Court is considering whether or not to hear a first amendment case concerning the right of a gay student organization at the University of Missouri to use campus facilities.

In the past, the Court has avoided hearing cases involving homosexuals. Earlier this year the Court let stand without comment two lower court decisions which ruled that school boards had the right to dismiss teachers who had openly admitted their homosexuality.

The case which currently faces the court offers a dimension not present in the earlier cases: whether to review a

lower court decision favorable to homosexuals.

The case concerns the refusal of the University of Missouri to grant official recognition to the campus Gay Liberation Organization, or to allow it the use of campus facilities. The case dates back to 1971 when the GLO sought formal recognition in an effort to provide an on-campus dialogue between homosexuals and heterosexuals.

Overturning the recommendations of students and faculty groups, the Dean of Student Affairs Edward Hutchins cited "a concern for the impact of recognition on the general relationship of the university to the public

at large." This decision was upheld through a series of hearings held by university authorities.

In late 1973 the GLO and four of its members filed a civil rights complaint in US District Court. The Court acknowledged that the university, acting as an agent of the state, has no right to restrict speech or association "simply because it finds the views abhorrent." But it still ruled against the GLO, arguing that university recognition of the gay group "would likely result in imminent violation of Missouri sodomy laws."

On Appeal to the Eighth US Circuit Court of Appeals the decision was

overturned. The Court stated that the University of Missouri, in denying the GLO a place to meet, had violated the group's first amendment rights of freedom of speech and assembly.

The Appeals Court decision was challenged by the university, which petitioned the Supreme Court to hear the case. If the Court refuses to grant a hearing, then the lower court decision will stand throughout the seven states in the jurisdiction of the Eighth Circuit Court: Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska and North and South Dakota. A decision of the Supreme Court to review a case requires a vote of four of the nine justices.

Rochester (N.Y.) in Furor Over CETA Funding

ROCHESTER, NY — Rochester gay activists are awaiting the decision of the city's Urban League as to whether \$35,406 in federal CETA funds, earmarked for the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley, will be officially allocated to the organization. The Urban League recommendations, which must be approved by the city council, are due Thursday, November 10.

The city's Community Chest, which had contracted with the city of Rochester to screen all CETA applications from social service organizations, had originally suggested that the gay organization and 52 other groups receive the money. However the Chest recommendations set off an intense debate, focusing on the gay grant, in the Roch-

ester City Council. After strong opposition from the council's lone Republican, Charles A. Schiano, the council decided to table the Chest's recommendations. At this point the Community Chest, fearful of being the center of controversy, withdrew from its contract with the city. The council then named the Urban League, a black civil rights organization, to review the Chest decisions and make recommendations as to what organizations should be given the \$15m in CETA funds.

Councillor Schiano has already warned that if the Urban League approves the gay proposal "the orange juice war starts again." Although some activists fear that the Urban League will rule against the gay group "to take the city's Democratic politicians off

the hook," others are not so sure. "I hope that the Urban League will stand on the basis of integrity," said Tim Mains, editor of *The Empty Closet*, the city's well-respected gay newspaper. Mains emphasized that the only contact that the gay community has had with the Urban League was when the League responded positively to a questionnaire and stated that it would not discriminate against gays in its membership.

The Gay Alliance controversy brought about the largest amount of media coverage which the city's gay community has ever received. In an address before the Community Chest, Carter administration aide and former Rochester Vice Mayor Margaret (Midge) Costanza strongly supported

the gay grant. "They're [the Gay Alliance] not selling homosexuality," said Costanza. "They're selling human rights."

The Gay Alliance had requested the money to create "Project Equality," whose long-range aim was to "ease the burden of discrimination faced by gay women and men in the community." "Project Equality" lists its goals as public education, upgrading mental health services for the gay community, and identifying discrimination in housing and employment. The \$35,000 would pay salaries and fringe benefits to three people working for the Alliance. CETA (Comprehensive Education and Training Act) is a federal program designed to create jobs.

AN OPEN LETTER
TO THE GAY COMMUNITY
NEWS AND DAVID BRILL:

Dear David:
Not only was your article "Talking Politics" full of inaccuracies, it showed you to be a much smaller person than I thought.
For that reason alone, I am saddened. I felt we had our disagreements, but respected your right to your opinion, whether it be presented privately or expressed publicly as in G.C.N. However, in this latest article, David, we both lose.

I would have paid you the ultimate tribute I usually pay you, David, when you have taken your private disagreements with me to a public forum, and that is to ignore you. But this time, David, you really went too far. Your subjective gossip column, (poorly written at best), has shown an ugly passion in you that you have yourself exposed.

In your zealous desire to destroy my credibility, your "passion o'er leaps itself." You have violated a very old code, respected by the entire gay community. In doing so you have publicly let all the G.C.N. readers know what I suspected privately; that you are not trustworthy and would expose any person in order to get what you perceive as "sharing the limelight." Some call it "fascism."

Yet I am curious, David. I wonder what pushed you over that unethical edge? I have known you for over seven years and am familiar with your difficulty to deal with strong women. (You were on the board of a now defunct gay organization that decided no woman should be its president. On more than one occasion, you suggested that my feminism takes precedent over my gay activism. In 1975 you also suggested I not side with the Black Caucus since you felt my de-segregation stand lost us votes among the white segregationists.)

Therefore, it must be hard for you, David, and painful to see two women relating and working together; one never being constantly dominant, the other never constantly submissive. Was it difficult for you to see me listen and respect the views of another woman?

I find it equally amazing that you feel qualified to speak for Ms. Fareri. In all the time I have known her, it never once entered my mind to speak for her. She always seemed quite capable of speaking for herself. She certainly has been honest with you, David, and direct to your face, as well as to Joe Martin, when the decision was made that my aide, Bob Mikolitch, could no longer attend Gay Legislation meetings because he was "too political." But then, perhaps you are more comfortable with people who talk behind your back.

However, her honesty is often hard for me to take, especially when she is right. I can imagine how difficult it must be for you, David. A woman probably has not talked to you that directly since you were "potty-trained." On the other hand, your article shows for all of us to see one outstanding character trait of yours, David, that makes you "perfect" for politics. In fact, it is a trait essential for one to possess in order to rise in "the game." It is the "killer instinct." Because you have such a quality, you will survive politically, David. I certainly have learned more from persons such as yourself about the distasteful side of politics than I have from any straight politician.

Ms. Fareri was always uncomfortable with you, David, a journalist who continually told us both that the "straight" press constantly "mis-quoted" you and that one could "never trust the straight press." This latest article confirms her worst fears about you; that you accused others of what you are guilty of yourself.

She warned me about disclosing too early to

you my decision not to run against Barney. However, I thought telling you would do some good. As I told you and Gay Legislation members back in May, I would not run against Frank and asked you not to create a race that did not exist.

Politics is not my whole life, David, as it seems to be yours. I told you then and repeat once more, I would rather walk away than get into a destructive battle in which the community is ripped apart and friendships quite dear to me are damaged beyond repair.

Friendships to me, David, mean more than political power. It is the only power that lasts and supports one throughout life; but that is obviously as difficult for you to understand now as it was in May. In all the years I have known you, I have not known you to consider friendships a priority. Perhaps this justifies your desire to be such a public figure. Let me help fulfill your fantasy.

To you, David Brill, I leave the following legacy: I will refer to you all the calls I receive at home and at the State House from local gays as well as those across the country. I wonder how you will answer a weekly average of 200 pieces of mail from gays as far away as London, Germany and Bangkok. I leave it to you to tell them what to do about immigration problems, domestic problems, custody problems, legal problems, as well as zoning variance problems, licensing problems for a gay restaurant, gallery or bar.

I wonder if you will become weary of answering the phone at 2 or 3 a.m. on an average of four nights a week to listen to a gay person who just needs to know someone is out there and understands?

How will you cope with obscene calls and persons threatening your life and those of the people who work and associate with you?

I wonder how you will mentally sort out, as I had to do, the realization that someone you never met has a compulsion about shooting through your apartment windows and car windows?

How will you handle growing tired of checking the 'lug' bolts on all four tires to insure they have not been loosened once again? Will your weariness show because of the obscenities scratched in the paint of your car? Will you decide to sell the car because the continued spray painting and violence done to the vehicle has financially made owning a car prohibitive? Will you make a joke about the bicycling to work with one eye always on anyone who drives too close?

Will you choose to respond to gays who face losing their children in a custody case? Will you try to raise some money to defray legal expenses? Will you tell them all who call, write, or ring your door at any hour of the day or night, that it's okay to cry and that it will be alright in the end? Will you tell them not to give up hope, David?

This is my legacy to you. It is all the "limelight" I have to give you, David. Take it. It is yours. I will check with you in about three years (the same time you gave me). At that point, if you still have one moment to editorialize, I want you to tell us all, privately as well as publicly. . . be honest, David, when you are absolutely all alone, tell us how *you* deal with the "limelight" legacy I now bequeath you.

Sincerely,
Elaine Noble
State Representative

cheap, dirty trash

Dear GCN:
I am writing in regard to David Brill's "editorial" in the Oct. 29 issue. I was very offended and disturbed that I had to read such TRASH in a paper that I highly respected. I can't even begin to understand why Brill felt he had to resort to such cheap dirty yellow journalism. It's well known that Brill has disliked Elaine Noble, but I never knew that it was so bad that he felt he had to strike out at her in front of the entire Gay

Community.
I feel that most of his story was based on lies, rumors, and third-hand information.

When Noble supposedly bad-mouthed Frank to G.L., it was for not being in a meeting that she, and the G.L. Lobbyists, felt it important for him to be in. Frank was out of the State House at the time. . . .

As far as Ms. Fareri is concerned, the only complaint Brill has about her, as far as I can see, is Ms. Fareri has the nerve to say what she thinks about somebody to his/her face. I have to say that I respect that far more than I do someone who has to hide behind a paper. And as far as "unleashing her venom" on Harold Challenor, it had nothing to do with G.L. or the Bill, and Brill's interference in personal matters should be castigated.

I myself am sick of listening to David Brill constantly spread lies, and rumors. Especially in a time when the Gay Community needs to be united if we can even expect to get anywhere. Otherwise it is my opinion that Brill is responsible for more division in the Gay Community than anyone else in the city.

As the visible media representation of the Gay Community, I feel GCN, its Board of Directors, Editor, and staff, should insist on maintaining a harmonious and cohesive union among all members of the Community showing no respect and total contempt for personal vendettas.

Tom Connolly

(Editor's Note: David Brill's comments did not come in a GCN editorial, as the writer states. Brill's comments were printed in his own column, "Talking Politics," and was not intended to be an official statement of GCN policy.)



view of Noble

Dear GCN,
Brian McNaught's childish and rather petty tirade notwithstanding, David Brill's recent article on Elaine Noble and the failure of the gay rights bill was presented, by any standard, in a prudent and critically balanced manner.

I was among those who worked in Elaine's first campaign. I regard her as a highly competent individual who compares very favorably with other members of the Massachusetts Legislature. I regret that redistricting has forced an awkward confrontation with Barney Frank. Elaine has been a good legislator, but Barney is a superior one and I think this is clearly recognized by the Boston gay community and was accurately reflected in Brill's timely article.

A year ago a gay organization of which I am a member had some difficulty with a state-owned facility that we used. I took the matter up with Elaine's office. Several months passed before things were resolved in a satisfactory way. During that time two of Elaine's aides gave me very contradictory information about what Elaine was or was not doing. Recently similar problems arose. I sent a letter of complaint to the facility with copies to Noble's and Frank's office. I got immediate response from Barney Frank including a telephoned apology from a high state official that had been requested by Frank. The whole matter was resolved at once with assurances that it would not happen again. There was no response from Noble or her office.

Sturgis Haskins

summer of '74

Dear GCN:
First let me say this in regards to the recent pro and con arguments about Elaine Noble: the issue has nothing to do with legislative politics or the gay bill; the issue is pure and simply the issue of Elaine Noble the person. You will read letters from Pollyanna telling us we must play the game of follow the leader.

It was the "Summer of '74." The place a well-known women's comfort station. Scanning the rhetorical bullshit on the graffiti-laden wall I read: "Will the *real* Elaine Noble please stand up." "Why those 'little fuckers,'" I muttered angrily, reaching for my felt-tipped Flair. I dashed off a line or two of graffiti about envy towards gay leaders. I had woven my two cents worth of thread into what was fast becoming the GREAT ELAINE NOBLE MYTH tapestry.

In 1974 it didn't matter. We were having our day in the sun. To question Elaine would be to doubt ourselves. We were fighting to gain acceptance for all gays and in the gay liberation horse race all our chips were on the lavender candidate with the winning smile.

Seven months after the election several of her elderly friends caught my attention at a street fair. "Say, Sheri, whatever happened to your friend Elaine Noble?" they yelled from across the street. "The only time we ever see her anymore is on TV." "It looks like she's more interested in being a professional lesbian than in being our representative."

The "Summer of '74" was a joyous time. Nothing could ever dull the brilliance of those beautiful memories. We worked our asses off to send a wonderful gay woman to the State House. But it is now time to get on with the gay liberation movement and we must do it with or without Elaine Noble.

Elaine's life since 1974 has been like a soap opera that we all tuned into. After a while when the characters changed somewhat but the dialogue didn't, most of us got bored and turned off our sets. The Elaine Noble issue has taken all the joy out of the gay liberation movement here in Boston. If there is "a real Elaine Noble out there will she please stand up" and either join the rest of us or quietly go away.

Sincerely,
Sheri Barden



whales and
nightingales

Dear GCN:
Whales, bedrooms, bedwetting and nose picking; my gawd, Brian, what did all this have to do with David Brill's "Talking Politics" in GCN Vol. 5, Issue 17? Indeed your letter could have been written by a 10 year old. As much as it seems to escape you, Elaine is a public figure. Equating lover with bedrooms seems only to reflect your Catholic background shining through. Gee Wilikers, Brian, the boat rocks a little and you throw up — don't you know that sea-sickness is all in the mind.

George Dimsey

our right to know

To GCN:
Brian McNaught's letter in this week's GCN was a blind and over-defensive reaction to something which, I gather, should have been said a long time ago. Brian, what is left when sight is lost?

If Ms. Noble has been demonstrably erring in political matters at the State House, then we have a right to know. If there is a split in the Gay Legislation committee (as there apparently is),

RESPOND, RESPOND

In our October 29, we printed a questionnaire to be used by our advertising department. If you haven't done so already, we urge you to fill it out and mail it in as soon as possible. If you would like a copy of the questionnaire you may stop by the GCN office.



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then we have a right to know.

Regarding Rep. Noble's "relationship" with "S.F." I am sure that Mr. Brill or his editors would not have published that fact without carefully thinking about it. S.F.'s photograph has been printed in GCN, and her name has been mentioned before also. The sex life of a public official is "usually not public information," as Mr. Taylor pointed out, but the spouse of a public official usually is, especially when he/she plays an important role in the public official's public life. That is why we have traditionally been so interested in people like Martha Mitchell or Eleanor Roosevelt — they are more than just close friends of their husbands — they are "their other half."

If S.F. has been obstructive, then it is surely relevant. If she attacked an important gay leader or made a jackass out of herself at a public meeting (Why, Mr. Brill, did we not read about these things *when they happened?*), again, it is surely relevant. If she is acting on behalf of Rep. Noble, then it is the public's business.

Is Brian McNaught of the opinion that a person who is both female and gay is also necessarily impeccable? Anyone who reads other newspapers knows that this is not the case with Rep. Noble. I suppose Mr. McNaught has sympathies toward Susan Saxe as well.

But by accusing David Brill of losing "his honor" simply by telling honest facts (no one questioned the accuracy) that we, as readers, *are entitled to know*, Mr. McNaught puts him in an unlikely alliance with Charley Shively, whom Mr. McNaught predicted would "burn in hell" for acting "without honor" at the Gay Pride Parade rally.

If Mr. McNaught thinks that gay is necessarily good all the time, then he is acting not only without honor, but without brains. The bottom-line about the Oct. 29 "Talking Politics" is clear: that Mr. Brill is right.

Jim Lee

poor political journalism

Dear GCN Editor:

It was fortunate for David Brill that "Talking Politics" was the heading for his article (Oct. 29 issue) concerning Rep. Elaine Noble and the defeat of the gay rights legislation. For the entire tone of the article was permissively subjective and unprofessional . . . in short, poor political journalism. Aside from what should be the obvious responsibility of any writer to provide objective, factual and pertinent reporting to his/her readership, it seems to me that it is equally incumbent upon them to be sensitive to the need for objectivity where the lives and careers of individuals are concerned.

Mr. Brill's article lacks a potent political analysis, is relatively devoid of content, and reads more like a gossip column than an assessment of what factors influenced the defeat of the legislation. I am strongly in favor of critical journalism and feel, particularly as it relates to politics, that the critical perspective is a vital part of the journalistic effort. However, when any writer engages in self-indulgent, insensitive, and unnecessary "chatter" in an article, they not only bore, but insult their readers. For example, it was neither relevant nor important for Mr. Brill to

postulate on Rep. Noble's relationship with Ms. Fareri, except in the latter's capacity as campaign manager. Neither was the extensive portrayal of Ms. Fareri's "vitriolic" personality and its supposed ramifications of interest; what could have been said in one paragraph was drawn out and over-personalized into six!! The result was an "And-then-she-said" writing style that lacks substance and maturity.

The experience of in-house politics is witnessed in many coalitions for social and political change. Mr. Brill does a disservice to gay political unity by focusing *solely* on the effects of this factor in relation to gay legislation. Analyzing the tactics and strategy of those truly oppressive individuals and groups who so vigorously pursue a commitment against gay rights would be a more impressive — and productive — effort on his part.

I trust that in the future David Brill will more fully respect his responsibility to provide mature, objective journalism for the benefit of the gay community.

Kathleen Glynn

no bloodletting

Dear GCN:

It really is distressing to me to read such a puerile, peevish letter as Brian McNaught's commentary on David Brill's "Talking Politics." Obviously he didn't even carefully read David's column and he has chosen to blow one comment about Santa Fareri all out of proportion. Brian's letter and use of language only reflect the smallness of his thinking.

David's column was no bloodletting but a statement of the truth about the Elaine Noble situation which I for one was relieved at last to see printed in the pages of GCN.

David speaks for hundreds of us out there who at one time were enthusiastic and dedicated supporters of Elaine Noble. We have found to our sorrow that the dedicated, concerned human being who we put into the State House has allowed a thirst for publicity and a need for personal power to override and blot out the person who she once was or we thought she was. No, we didn't expect any super-human performances from Elaine. We've taken into account that she like anyone else is entitled to make mistakes.

However, I for one, did expect maturity, intelligence and a certain amount of humanity out of Elaine and it was a painful moment for me when I realized that she really has only her own interests at heart and doesn't give a damn for anyone — all her repetitious rhetoric to the contrary.

Sincerely,

Lois H. Johnson

politics and poker

Dear GCN:

Like many others, I was saddened and disheartened to learn that Elaine Noble will not seek re-election. For most of my active gay life she has been a living and working symbol of gay liberation, and for this I am in her debt. I am also certain that her intense visibility as an openly gay person was responsible for her defeat, and, in this respect, I am sorry to have read David Brill's critique of her actions. I don't question the accuracy of David's reportage, but I must



question his tone and point out some of the things left unsaid by him.

Certainly Elaine Noble took a political gamble on this legislation — and lost. A lesbian who by her own political nature could not but want to support many so-called radical causes, she voted conservatively on some issues in hopes of a *quid pro quo*. This *quid pro quo* was not forthcoming, and therefore it might be fair to say that Elaine was less astute than we (and she) might have hoped. Would the gay community have been better served if she'd voted her conscience? By David's own account, no, since the liberals continued to support the bill. But the bill would still have lost, and Elaine would no doubt be blamed for caring more about ideological purity than gay rights. In short, Elaine would have been damned whatever she did — I think she did her best. . . .

Finally, why, David, do we hear no mention of Barney Frank the politician? Was Elaine the only representative working for this bill? And, as charming as Barney is, wasn't he also powerless to prevent its defeat?

Lest we forget: during last year's Graham campaign (pro-gay black woman Sandra Graham challenges anti-gay white male incumbent John Toomey), Elaine Noble came over to Cambridge and helped the Graham forces; Barney Frank remained neutral explaining to the Graham people that he owed John Toomey a political favor. No one (including myself) condemns Barney for staying out of the fight — but it was this sort of ordinary political activity that in Barney was O.K. and politic, but in Elaine seemed to provoke the most intense criticism.

I believe that Elaine Noble's failure in The House is due to her gayness; and I believe that the gay community is guilty of aiding and abetting the straight community in pushing her out. I remember in the one year that I was co-ordinator of the Cambridge Gay Political Caucus (a far far less public position), how intense the criticism of me from within the gay community was, and how many times I was expected to be fifty different people. Joe Martin once spoke to me of the way the gay movement cannibalizes its leaders. All in all, I'm surprised Elaine lasted this long.

Bill Weintraub

muddled 'critique' of fine film

Dear GCN,

As a gay male I would like to take issue with Tina LaConte's muddled "critique" of the documentary *In The Best Interests of the Children*. In particular, I feel that Ms. LaConte's com-

ments on the film's treatment of men reveals a rather wide misreading of the film's subject. "Men in the film" she charges, "are quite villainized by their roles as arbitrary authority figures in law and power-hungry husbands. I understand the attitude behind these images." Ms. LaConte's condescending phrasing indicates quite clearly that she does not understand. What lies behind the images is not an "attitude" but a reality. Sadly, men often do act villainously as judges, court appointed psychiatrists, and vengeful ex-husbands in preventing lesbians from raising their own children.

Ms. LaConte goes on to ask why the filmmakers ignore the issue of gay men raising children. Though she "realizes the film's subject is lesbian mothers" she nonetheless is obsessed with this non-issue, which occupies close to a third of her review. She accuses the filmmakers of denying the possibility of men being as loving toward children as women, and concludes that the "undertone of sexism . . . as well as the general negativity to men in the film, chills my ideals." There is nothing in the film that even hints at such a view of men. The filmmakers do not deny the possibility of men acting as loving parents any more than they deny the possibility of unwed mothers, of inter-racial couples, of the elderly, or of communal groups providing children with love, simply because they did not address these possibilities in this film.

Far from viewing *In the Best Interests of the Children* as sexist propaganda I found it a forceful yet humane statement of the love and strength of lesbian mothers struggling to raise their children in this society. I urge everyone to see it.

Ken Rabb

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(Signed) Neil Miller
Publisher

—speaking out— Respectability and Self-Oppression

By Michael Bronski

A recent GCN (10/22/77) carried a statement from the Gay Athletes Union of Long Beach State University that concerned their campaign to stop gay male sex in public restrooms. "We've put a number of jocks on patrol, mainly to tell these people to take their sex life home where it belongs . . . We're really strong on seeing this activity stopped, even if it means having to get pushy with some of these characters."

Earlier this year, in response to a Gay Pride Day speech, someone suggested that "We should censor our own speakers from within lest we all be censored from without." Both this and the Gay Athletes statements are reflective of a move to attain some sort of respectability — to find acceptance in the straight world on their terms. This desire for respectability is commonplace for some portion of any minority attempting to establish their place in a dominant culture. What is frightening here, however, is that these "respectability seekers" are attempting to place their standards on a very diverse gay population.

This activity has been called "self-censorship," but the term is inaccurate, and misleading. If I decide not to have sex in public (and the closed stall in a rest room is not really "public") because it would give gay people a bad name — that is self-censorship. If I am stopped from doing anything by a vigilante group, that is not self-censorship — it is repression. Just because this is done in the name of "what is good for gay people" does not make it any different than being harassed by the police for the same activity.

What is at work here is not only a drive for "acceptance," but an attempt by a small group to set up their own morality as a standard for the whole community. Wilhelm Reich has written in *The Mass Psychology of Fascism* that "fascist mentality is the mentality of the 'little man' who is enslaved and craves authority and is at the same time rebellious. This little man has studied the big man's behavior all too well, and he reproduces it in a distorted and grotesque fashion." If

we are going to survive as gay people we are going to have to continue to be rebellious — but it must be rebellion in search of autonomy. To ape the authority of the straight man over anyone is to not only perpetrate our own oppression, but to force it upon others.

The gay community is varied and contains many attitudes, lifestyles, institutions. People that may be disliked for any number of reasons, both good and bad, by any other number of lifestyles, institutions, and people. Criticism and self-criticism within the community can only be helpful. For one group to force a standard of behavior upon the community for whatever reason — can be nothing but harmful.

The danger of repression — no matter how reasonable the first steps might seem — is that it inevitably leads to more repression. Sex in public restrooms may offend some people — so does pornography, hustling, acting effeminate, acting too butch, and acting sexual. It should be remembered that our sexuality makes us all outlaws. It does not matter if we have sex in a public restroom or in the privacy of our bedroom — in either case it is illegal. To forcibly prohibit people from engaging in a form of sexuality under the pretext of "cleaning up our image" is in the end self-defeating and hypocritical.

The irony of the "jock patrol" is that the police urged the athletes to "make citizen's arrests rather than take the law into their own hands." It is a sad day when we have to turn to the police to protect us from our own kind.

It is important that we claim our human rights now. But we must claim them because they are our inalienable rights — not because we are middle class enough, straight enough, clean enough, holy enough, or proper enough to merit them.

The Gay Athletes Union has played right into the hands of our oppressors — they are playing the police's game in a vain attempt to see their own freedom. If we are to find our strength we must fight all repression — whether it be the police, the state legislatures, or gay vigilantes.

contact

By Dai Thompson

By Dai Thompson

NEW HAVEN — On November 12, MCC/Hartford will co-sponsor a day-long event, *Sexual Politics: Alternate Life Styles and Public Policy*, to be held at the Unitarian Meeting House in Hartford. Speakers will include Kate Millet, John Boswell (Yale historian) and Senator Betty Hudson. The day will begin with Kate Millet and John Boswell at 9:00 a.m., and continue until a 3:00 sherry and cheese party, with a break for lunch from noon to 1:30. The day is funded by the Connecticut Humanities Council and the program is, therefore, completely free. For further information, call the MCC switchboard at 522-5575.

On October 15-16, 160 women attended the first convention of the Feminist Union of New Haven at the Yale Divinity School. Events included workshops, the creation of on-going Task Forces, the election of a steering committee, and voting on resolutions to help define the Union and outline its goals. Generally the weekend went very well, with lots of work and socializing done by everyone. The main point of contention was one of the seven Points of Unity (a belief in all seven is a prerequisite for joining the Union). The fifth point reads: "We strongly affirm the right of each woman to her own sexual preference. In a society which has established a heterosexual norm of

behavior, and which actively oppresses Lesbians, we support Lesbianism as a choice for women. Furthermore we affirm Lesbianism as a positive mode of feeling and thinking, and value its contribution to the women's movement." The "positive mode of feeling" was the phrase that a few of the women had difficulty in accepting: they could accept the need for gay civil rights but were reluctant to "affirm" our lifestyle as a positive choice. Fortunately, after one of the longest sessions of the weekend, most of the women attending the convention realized the desirability of this point, and proceeded to pass a resolution that:

"Whereas gay people suffer discrimination in many areas of their lives, being fired from and denied jobs, denied custody of their children, denied equal access to housing, credit and insurance and denied access to licensing and bonding.

"Therefore be it resolved that:

"1. The Feminist Union will actively support the passage of gay rights legislation on local, state and national levels.

"2. To that end we will poll all candidates on their stand on gay rights and publish these results for members and supporters of the Feminist Union.

"3. Believing that sexual preference should not be an issue in child custody cases we will support all legal and edu-

cational efforts to assist gay parents.

"4. We will form a Lesbian Rights Task Force within the Feminist Union which will be a presence within the Union and will educate the membership on gay rights and on problems unique to lesbians and lesbian mothers. Furthermore this task force will work to eliminate all sexual imperatives. By sexual imperatives we mean a claim of superiority on the basis of sexual preference. And furthermore, we support the activities

of the Connecticut Gay Task Force and will, through our task force, maintain a permanent liaison with them."

The first membership meeting of the Feminist Union will be held on Nov. 14 at the New Haven Law Collective, 938 Chapel St. at 8 p.m. It will be an open meeting and all women — both members and those interested in learning more about the Union, are welcome to attend. For further information, contact Mary Gayeski at 865-5025 or Lucille St. Marie at 865-3685.

Cuomo Qualifies Rights Stand

NEW YORK — A spokesperson for New York City mayoral candidate Mario Cuomo has qualified a *New York Times* report that the Liberal Party candidate would "veto" a gay rights bill. Cuomo "is not questioning the right of gay people to teach or hold employment," press secretary Harold Holzer told GCN in a telephone interview. What the candidate did say, according to Holzer, was that he would veto "any bill that implies the right of proselytizing [by gay teachers]."

"Intro 554 is moot," said Holzer. "When the new bill comes up, Mario [Cuomo] would want to participate in, to monitor the hearing process. He might want a clause that forbids proselytizing. He wouldn't want any bill that could be interpreted as allowing proselytizing."

"The veto report is not right. Cuomo did say that the fact that the Supreme Court did not take the Gaylord case was unfortunate,"

Holzer added.

Cuomo has been supportive of the right of gays to serve as teachers and he was rated as an "acceptable" candidate by the New York Political Action Council, a gay organization which rates candidates. The Council rated Rep. Edward Koch, the Democratic candidate and Cuomo's rival, as their "preferred" mayoral candidate. Koch has been the leading sponsor of the national gay rights bill and is the overwhelming favorite to defeat Cuomo, Republican candidate Roy Goodman, and Conservative Party candidate Barry Farber. Both Goodman and Farber received "unacceptable" ratings from the gay rating group.

In addition to Koch, the Political Action Council gave "preferred" ratings to Carol Bellamy, Democratic nominee for City Council, and Robert Wagner, Jr., the Republican-Liberal candidate for Manhattan Borough President.

Why David Sullivan needs your 1 vote.

David Sullivan has emerged as one of the most effective and hard-working reform leaders both in Cambridge and in the state. State Representative Barney Frank has said, "If he is elected to the Cambridge City Council, not only will Cambridge benefit, but another badly-needed voice will be added to those making the fight for honesty and social justice in this state."

Polly LaBrie, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 492-2228

FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE #1

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Charles Pierce

for

Cambridge
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Give Him Your
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Committee to Elect Charles Pierce, 720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge

Boston Candidates

(Continued from page 1)

tion has been attributed to his desire to retain control of neighborhoods that are presently unrepresented on the Council — areas like East Boston, Roxbury, and the Back Bay where White supporters dominate elections.

City Council

All nine members of the City Council are seeking re-election this year. Of these, only Councillor Lawrence S. DiCara has a demonstrated record of support for gay rights issues on the city level. DiCara, who has taken a leadership role on behalf of the Galvin bill, has been instrumental in matters dealing with the gay community, ranging from police complaints to lobbying for gay rights legislation at the State House. Significantly, he votes alone on more issues than any other councillor.

Other incumbents offer varying degrees of negativism, ranging from the blatant hostility of Councillor John J. Kerrigan (who has become well-known for telling "fag jokes" on television), to the baffling ignorance of Councillor Frederick Langone (who recently said he did not think gays should be barred from becoming teachers "if they are of good moral turpitude.")

Three challengers have offered supportive statements to the gay community. These are: Stephen Farrell, a former high-ranking official of the White administration who led the unsuccessful fight to have the city's Youth Activities Commission continue the fund-

ing of Project Lambda, the gay youth advocacy program operated at the Charles Street Meeting House; Arnett Waters, an endorsee of the Ward 4 and Ward 5 Democratic Committees who supports the establishment of a city Human Rights Commission with a gay member; and Rosemary Sansone, former director of the Mass. Committee to Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment who carried Ward 5 (Back Bay and Beacon Hill) during the September preliminary election.

School Committee

The school committee issue has sparked renewed interest among gay voters nationwide this year, largely due to California State Sen. John Briggs, who is attempting to place a referendum question on next year's California ballot permitting school committees to fire gay teachers. Recent national polls show public opinion still weighted against allowing gay persons from becoming teachers, although *Boston Globe* and WBZ-TV polls of the Boston area show strong support for the rights of gay people in the teaching field.

John O'Bryant, a co-author of the Galvin bill, has made a clear effort to attract the support of gay voters in Boston this year in his second bid for School Committee. O'Bryant, if elected, has said he would support the extension of Mayor White's 1976 Executive Order banning discrimination on the basis of sexual preference to in-

clude teachers and other employees of the school department. He also supports the inclusion of gay lifestyles "designed to have a positive impact" in the schools' sex and health education classes (as in San Francisco).

O'Bryant came within a handful of votes of the crucial "top five" school committee candidates during the Sep-

tember preliminary election, finishing less than 500 votes behind veteran committee member John McDonough, who finished third. O'Bryant was far and away the top vote-getter in both Ward 4 (South End) as well as Ward 5, and, if elected, he would become the first black to sit on the board in this century.

DID YOU SEE?

the village VOICE

Two weeks ago, in the noisy blare of downtown Brooklyn traffic, two men sat in a parked car outside Mario Cuomo's [Liberal Party candidate for Mayor of New York] Court Street headquarters. One of them, Bruce Romanoff, was a 'security consultant' — a former private eye who had given up his license under pressure in January of 1974. The other was Thomas Chardavoyne, Cuomo's Brooklyn borough coordinator. They were discussing Ed Koch's sex life.

'He asked me to look into it,' says Romanoff. 'Past and present, the whole thing. He said he'd heard there was a chance Koch had a few boy-friends.'

Romanoff was not alone among the investigators to be contacted about Koch's history. Michael Dowd, who served as Cuomo's campaign manager during the primary and run-off, admits he 'has entered into a professional relationship with Queens private investigator Roger Horan. You hear rumors all the time,' he says, 'but there's one that was so pervasive — that I heard

from so many different people — that I began to think it might be true. Am I tryin' to find out it is? Yean. . .'

In last Sunday's *Times* magazine John Corry wrote that Koch's friends feel 'amusement' when they see pictures of him holding hands with Bess Myerson. 'One of her functions,' Corry wrote, 'is to dispel rumors that (Koch) is a homosexual.' That afternoon, ABC's Peter Bannion turned the Corry observation into a question, asking Koch — during a debate among all four candidates — if that were indeed Myerson's role.

The candidate reacted predictably. Koch denied the charge, calling it 'vicious' and the other three proclaimed it irrelevant. Nevertheless, it was news, and in the radio interviews that followed, Koch was again and again called on to clarify his sexual orientation. Finally, in response to a question from WNEW news, he said, "I don't happen to be a homosexual but if I were, I would hope that I wouldn't be ashamed of it. God makes you whatever you are." . . .

—from an article by Geoffrey Stokes, called "Smear News Is No News" in *the Village Voice*, November 7, 1977.

KOOCHER ①

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION AND PERSONNEL REFORM

During my first term, I helped reorganize the personnel department. Now parents and students throughout the city help choose their own teachers and Staff. WITHOUT A MAJORITY ON THE COMMITTEE WILLING TO SUPPORT THE NEIGHBORHOODS, THE GOOD PEOPLE THEY SELECT CANNOT BE APPOINTED.

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SAUNDRA GRAHAM

#1 City Council

Cambridge

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new york, new york

By Harold Pickett

By Harold Pickett

Clarification on the Nov. 12 "Speakout for Intro 554," New York City's gay rights bill which has failed City Council passage for six years. The organizers announce that a picketing of HEW Secretary Joseph Califano, who has refused money for low cost housing to lesbian and gay couples, will be held from 1-3 p.m. at New York University Law School, on the southwest corner of Washington Square Park.

Later, from 3-6 p.m., the workshops on the history of Intro 554, organizing, lobbying, and outreach for its passage will be held in the Main Building of Hunter College at 69th St. and Lexington Ave., in Rooms 914 and 915.

Again, on Nov. 12, at 7:30 pm. the "Speakout" will be held in Room 919 of Hunter College. Jonathan Katz, David Thorstad, and Sallie Herson are among the scheduled speakers.

The Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights deserves a special note of thanks for its consistent and dedicated hard work in its on-going struggle to gain our rights.

Reliable sources indicate that certain "mainstream" gay politicians are still attempting to "red-bait" and discredit the militant Coalition. Possibly, as the climate now seems more favorable for passing a gay rights bill, these people want to claim the credit for any success just for themselves.

Community Club Reopens

BOSTON — The Community Club was rescheduled to re-open last week following a one-month closure as its liquor license was transferred from the ownership of the Beta Restaurant to the Providence Club, Inc. The original plans for the club called for an expansive, multi-story, members-only establishment. However, under the revised petition approved by the Boston Licensing Board last week, the new club will consist of two-floors only, and will not be a membership club.

The original plans for a large membership club were unacceptable to the

Speaking of politicians, though favorably now, let me add my support for the candidacy of **Chuck Thompson**, an openly gay man running for City Council. His opponent is the Democratic candidate, **Carol Greitzer**. Greitzer has never effectively served her gay constituents. Thompson is running on the Republican and the Independent tickets for the Council seat which represents the Village and Chelsea areas. Though he isn't a single-issue candidate, Thompson will make gay rights and community service his number one priority. We can't complain about political neglect if we fail to support one of our own. Thompson needs volunteers who can spare even a few hours and he needs financial contributions, too. His headquarters are at 498 Sixth Ave. and the phone number is 212-620-3030. If our real concern is for gay rights we will elect Thompson to the City Council.

In the "Off The Record" column of *The Villager*, Oct. 27, **Harry Hopkinson** writes:

"Look to Allen Roskoff to end up with a job in the new city administration come January as a high-visibility gay. Roskoff, an energetic young VID (Village Independent Democratic) activist, was instrumental in delivering the endorsement of the Gay Independent Democrats for incumbent Carol Greitzer over her Council challenger, Chuck

Licensing Board, sources said, because of a complicated web of legal and financial problems that the owners inherited. The Community Club's former manager, Skip Rosenthal, told GCN that he would not be returning to the re-opened club because the original plans were thwarted. Rosenthal added, however, that all those persons who paid \$25 to belong to the club will receive refunds in full.

The Licensing Board's decision is expected to receive summary approval by the state's Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission.

Thompson, who is gay."

How "independent" are the Gay Independent Democrats and do the politicians assume Thompson has already lost the election?

The Storm!, an anarchist journal, is coming out with its Gay Issue in a matter of days. Yours truly is honored to have an article appearing in the issue. To receive a copy, send 69 cents to **Mark Sullivan** at 227 Columbus Ave., #2-E, New York City 10023. A subscription is \$2.00 for three issues. Make checks payable to Mark Sullivan.

Sullivan and co-editor, **Jim Kernochan**, state in "Where We Stand" that "The destruction of authority is an ongoing process; and until we repeal all laws favoring particular groups, who can righteously proclaim that homosexuals should not use the legal system

to protect themselves against evils created by the legal system? And should we listen to those who fear a straight backlash against gays in response to gay rights legislation? What gay or lesbian isn't afraid? But we have cowered under the lash of Judeo-Christianity for 2000 years. It is time for gay people to rise up and, if necessary, lash back!"

James Saslow, whose articles have appeared in practically every gay publication that exists, is causing lots of excitement as the result of the new, gay art history book he's working on currently. It promises to be a major breakthrough. The tentative title of Saslow's book is *The Aard-Vark of the Western World*. Can't you just see that sitting on the shelf next to the classics of Western Civilization?

Cambridge Goes to the Polls

(Continued from page 1)

The two insurgent liberals who appear to have the best chance of winning a council seat are David Sullivan and Mary Ellen Preusser. Sullivan was rated the first choice of the Gay Political Caucus and is a strong proponent of a Cambridge Human Rights Ordinance. "Gay rights is . . . important to me," Sullivan told GCN last month. "One of the things that separates me from some other reform-oriented candidates is that not only will I support the Human Rights Ordinance, but I will actively help organize it."

Preusser, who came close to winning last time around, is a strong proponent of gay and women's rights. She has supported gay rights bills in the state legislature, attended a Boston Advocates for Human Rights gathering when that organization was first established last March, and has actively sought gay support. Preusser was rated fourth by the Gay Political Caucus but the Cambridge alternative weekly, *The Real Paper*, has urged its readers to give Preusser their number 1 vote. A similar "kingmaking" endorsement by the newspaper in the last election was credited with David Clem's election to the council. The *Real Paper* backing has given a major boost to the well-organized Preusser effort.

All four incumbent liberals — Sandra Graham, Barbara Ackerman,

Frank Duehay, and David Clem — have stated that they would vote for a gay rights ordinance in the council. However, the "independent" incumbents have all either come out against the ordinance or declined to take a stand on the issue. Larry Frisoli, an "independent" challenger who is expected to make inroads into Mayor Vellucci's working-class, ethnic base, came out against gay rights in a recent letter to the *Boston Phoenix*. Frisoli had been listed by the Cambridge Gay Political Caucus as supporting gay rights.

Using "warmth of support" and "ability to manipulate the proportional representation system" as its criterion, the Cambridge Gay Political Caucus rated Sullivan as its number 1 candidate, incumbent Sandra Graham as #2, incumbent Frank Duehay 3, Preusser 4, incumbent Barbara Ackerman 5, insurgent David Wylie 6, insurgent Louis Solano 7, Beryl Breny 8, David Clem 9, and Florence West 10. All the endorsees, except Clem, are backed by Cambridge Convention '77. There are nine council seats altogether.

In the race for School Committee, the CGPC endorsed incumbents Glen Koocher, Sara Mae Berman, Alice Wolf, and insurgent Charles Pierce in that order. All four are Cambridge Convention endorsees.

ALICE WOLF

School Committee

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Gay Man in Close NY Race

By Phil Cappetta

BROOKLYN, NY — Gary Deane, an openly gay candidate running on the Liberal Party line, is believed to have an excellent chance of capturing one of the two councillor-at-large positions from Brooklyn on the New York City Council. While the Democratic candidate, Bob Steingut, seems assured of winning one of the seats, Deane is running a close race with two conservative opponents for the second spot. Republican Don Pemberton and Conservative Vincent Ricco appear to be splitting the right-wing vote, at this point, giving Deane a good chance to finish ahead of both of them. The two candidates who poll the highest votes in each borough get to sit on the New York City Council.

Gary Deane, soft spoken but dynamic in his organizing abilities, feels relaxed in the tense political atmosphere of this race. He said, "I have been involved with civil rights movements since the early sixties and with the Brooklyn Liberal Party for many years. I feel that I can successfully confront the problems of New York City and Brooklyn. I will not only be a voice for gay Brooklyn residents but every resident in Brooklyn."

Neil Bickford, one of Deane's campaign staff, elaborated on his feelings of why he feels Deane will win, "Firstly, the reaction to Gary's television appearances have been good. After the telecasts, numerous people came forward to tell us that they were tra-



ditionally anti-gay but were so impressed with Gary that they were going to vote for him.

"Secondly, the poorly organized Republican campaign has been hard pressed to fight for the inroads made by the Conservative candidate.

"Finally, Mario Cuomo is at the head of the Liberal Party ticket. We will get a lot of votes from people who just vote straight party line." In Brooklyn, Cuomo ran very strongly in the primary carrying some areas by a 5 to 1 margin.

The campaign manager, Rhoda Jacobs, spoke of the endorsements for Deane: Albert Skanker of the United Federation of Teachers and Harry Van Arsdale, head of the AFL-CIO. "Sur-

prisingly, we even have the endorsement of Bob Steingut, one of Gary's opponents." Early last week the *New York Times* also endorsed Deane in this council race.

When asked if it seemed odd that Cuomo, who has not been an extremely strong gay rights supporter, was helping Deane to win and didn't this indicate that most of the voters do not know who they are voting for, a staff member responded, "Cuomo does not represent the traditional Liberal Party ideas. He got the ticket as a political plum from Governor Carey. If Cuomo helps us, all the better. It's the election of an openly gay candidate that counts."

The political campaign has intensified recently. Deane's openly gay stand became a hot campaign issue when his conservative opponent Vincent Ricco published his letter to Anita Bryant (*New York Daily News*-October 24) asking her to campaign with Ricco against Deane. Ricco stated, "I don't feel the people of Brooklyn should be represented by Deane or any homosexual because the basic beliefs such as an individual has are contrary to those held by the overwhelming majority of the borough's residents."

Ricco, now an Assemblyman and a tough law and order candidate, has been well-known for running campaigns in the past which border on mud-slinging, so Deane's supporters expect that Ricco will step up his attacks.

Detroit Women Arrested, Charge Harassment

DETROIT, MICH. — Two Detroit black lesbians will go on trial early next year on charges of felonious assault stemming out of incidents during which they assert that they had to defend themselves from harassment. The two women — Deborah P. and Cynthia R. — charge their landlady and her daughters with being anti-gay and with both verbal abuse and physical attacks. They claim that the harassment had the tacit cooperation of the police.

The two women say that the landlady began harassing them after she eavesdropped on a private conversation last summer and found out they

were lesbians. The two women charge that they were constantly insulted and threatened with physical harm for several weeks and that on August 24 the landlady's daughters began throwing bricks at their children and dog as they played in the front yard. When Deborah came down to see what was happening, she alleges that she was attacked with a butcher knife by the landlady's daughter and had to be taken to a hospital.

According to Deborah, when she attempted to complain to the police, she was told that she couldn't sign a complaint because she was a lesbian. The police went along with the land-

lady's story, asserting that Deborah had started the trouble. The two women believe that this gave the landlady the "green light" to harass them, and another confrontation took place the next day. During this confrontation, Cynthia and Deborah were arrested and charged with felonious assault.

After their release and the ensuing arrest of the landlady's daughter, Deborah and Cynthia assert that their apartment was vandalized and all their possessions damaged or destroyed.

A Gay Rights Defense Committee has been formed to support the two women. Interested people can write them at Box 503, Detroit, Michigan

Sample Ballot Cambridge Elections

The Cambridge Gay Political Caucus has ranked the candidates on the basis of their stand on gay rights. Bring this ballot with you to the polling place. It is important to rank the candidates as indicated below. DO NOT MARK YOUR BALLOT WITH AN "X" OR IT WILL NOT BE COUNTED. Do not vote for candidates who are not ranked. These candidates are not in favor of gay rights.

CITY COUNCILLORS

BARBARA ACKERMAN	5
BYRLE BRENLY	8
DAVID CLEM	7
DANIEL J. CLINTON	
JOHN J. COURTNEY	
KEVIN P. CRANE	11
THOMAS W. DANEHY	
MARIA E. DaROSA	
WILLIAM J. DRIER	
FRANCIS H. DUEHAY	3
CAROL H. EVANS	
LAWRENCE FRISOLI	
JOHN J. GRAHAM	
SAUNDRA GRAHAM	2
WILLIAM E. O' BRIEN	
MARY ELLEN PREUSSER	4
LEONARD J. RUSSELL	
LOUIS F. SOLANO	7
DAVID E. SULLIVAN	1
WALTER J. SULLIVAN	
ALFRED VELLUCCI	
ANTHONY VIOLANTO	
FLORENCE WEST	10
DAVID A. WYLIE	6


Saundra Graham is a staunch supporter of gay rights and seems certain to be re-elected. Therefore, we recommend a number one vote for David Sullivan to add another strong voice for gay rights on the City Council.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SARA MAE BERMAN	2
DONALD A. FANTINI	
JAMES FITZGERALD	
DAVID HOLWAY	
DAVID P. KENNEDY	
GLENN S. KOOSCHER	1
JOSEPH E. MAYNARD	
CHARLES M. PIERCE	4
NICHOLAS R. RAGNO	
ALICE K. WOLF	3

As School Committee members all the ranked candidates are pledged to protect the rights of lesbians and gay men to teach in the Cambridge schools. The other candidates are hostile to gay teachers. We ranked Glenn Kaacher first because he seems most concerned about the rights of gay teachers.

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- Suffolk Law School

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Drama at the Meeting House

By Mark DeWolfe

A theater company has taken over — or rather, grown out of — the Charles Street Meetinghouse, which for the past several years has been home to a variety of gay-oriented services. GCN's Boston readers will remember the old coffeehouse days, the dances, the days of the remodeled cafe, and the ongoing work of Project Lambda, the gay youth advocacy project. While the cafe and the de-funded Project Lambda continue, they now share quarters with a promising young dramatic project, the Meetinghouse Theatre Company (MTC).

The MTC is the result of the efforts of both Randy Gibson, the minister of the Meetinghouse, and Roger Harkenrider, an actor who has made his home in Boston for the last five years. Gibson designed the lighting system for the upstairs Main Hall and has of course provided space for the company's work.

Harkenrider first came to the Meetinghouse back in the coffeehouse days. It was theater, though, that brought him to Boston in the first place. He came in 1972 with the company of Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. *Cuckoo's Nest* played in Boston for over two years. When it closed, Harkenrider decided to make his home in Boston.

Cuckoo's Nest also offered Harkenrider his first opportunity to work in theater management. It was then that his dream of a small resident company was born. In those days, the Boston Repertory Theatre was just getting its feet wet, the Boston Shakespeare Company had not been formed and many of the other small theaters Boston has become known for were not yet in operation. It seemed to Harkenrider that *Cuckoo's Nest's* phenomenal success had opened up a Boston audience that was ripe for the picking.

From Harkenrider's point of view, it is their current lack of resources that is

both their weakest and their strongest point. They intend to focus on the actor and the actor's craft, not only because they don't have the funds to mount grand scenic spectacles but also because to them it is in the actor's craft that they art of theatre lies. They seek to "eliminate eco-trips and concentrate on the joy of freeing people as artists."

The company was formed for a spring production of Albee's *The Zoo Story* and followed that with a summer rotating repertory of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Harold Pinter's *The Collection*. Harkenrider admits that the summer production of *Earnest* was flawed, so with some polishing they chose it to open their ambitious ten-play '77-'78 season. They are currently keeping the whole building busy, using the upstairs Main Hall for performances of *Earnest* and the downstairs "theatre-cafe" for a production of Albee's *The American Dream*. Starting November 16, the "theatre-cafe" will host a new production of Eugene Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano*. For the upcoming holiday season they have announced a new musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

In fact, their technical results are not as meager as one might expect. Randy Gibson's home-made lighting for *Earnest* is certainly adequate, though not spectacular. Jon Glidden's scene designs similarly show he has an eye for making the play's world a reality on stage.

If their lack of resources hurts anywhere, it is in making themselves known. There is not a lot of money to be spent on advertising, which Harkenrider points out is often a manager's greatest expense. However, they are fortunate to be located on the kind of corner where people walking by will often just stop in to see the show.

Although they are applying for grant money, Harkenrider says that the company intends to stay small. He



wants to avoid what he calls the "edifice complex" that many small resident companies get into when they build or buy their own buildings. "Once you've created the capital investment for a new building, you've suddenly got to produce works that are the equal of it." In that situation, Harkenrider says, a production is not viewed on its own merits. Instead, the company has to either produce or import a series of hits so as not to disappoint their investors.

Although the company has promised to focus on the actor and the art of acting, a critical viewer might recommend that they invest a bit of effort in the director and his or her art. The program for *Earnest* lists no one as director, and in fact the production suffers for lack of direction. A director can see a production from more angles than any one actor, who must necessarily fulfill his responsibilities to a single character. Much of what is muddy in this production could be

cleaned up by a good director. Furthermore, for a company of young actors *Earnest* is an exceedingly difficult piece, for it is too easy to become muddled in the stylized conversation and affected manners and to lose touch with the human reality that is the core of the comedy.

Harkenrider, however, has a close touch with what is intrinsically theatrical. Coming from a New York state farming background, he entered theater soon after leaving school, drawn to it by its "democracy of merit and intent." In theater, it never mattered whether you were straight or gay — what was more important was your ability to work as an artist and your desires as an entertainer. Harkenrider knows a "conscious artist makes order out of chaos."

"Theater is composed of the basic, human, primal things," he says. "Style is simply an accumulation of the multiple ways of being human."

Collective on Newbury St.

By Rhonda Zangwill

The legitimacy of political theater has historically been a topic of heated debate. Traditionalists dismiss it as a bastardization of a highly refined and defined art form, while its advocates defend it by questioning the existence of "pure entertainment" or "pure art."

The theoretical discussions will undoubtedly continue, but in the meantime more and more groups across the country are exploring the possibilities of political theater.

One such group is the Newberry Street Theatre Collective. Relatively young, they formed about three years ago. The current core group of four women and one man has been together two years. Operating as a collective the company eliminates the sometimes constricting hierarchy inherent in traditional theater groups. No one person in particular acts as director, producer or writer. The collective shares in all the responsibilities and decisions necessary to the creative process. The members are of a common political ideology. They are committed to dramatizing the dichotomy between the needs of working people in this country and the realities of our social and economic system. The company chooses material that deals honestly with the issues of



racism, sexism and oppression.

The gravity of such themes could make for a depressing night out, but they are not only in the business of dramatizing society's contradictions. The company also strives for presenting the positive. A tremendous idealism provides the balance necessary for their productions. One does not walk away from their shows feeling disillusioned and defeated, but rather with the belief that alternative lifestyles do exist and can work.

This was especially evident in their recent production of *Footholds*. The show is billed as a "dramatic collage" and it is just that. Twenty-one selec-

tions from women's writings were incorporated. Most of the pieces were adapted from longer, more involved works. The five women in the cast worked together to decide what to use. Each woman had at least one piece that was exclusively hers, that she adapted and to which she felt responsible. The formation of *Footholds* was a long process. Each piece was discussed and chosen because of its relevance to the central theme and the concept of the show as a whole. The area of women's writings gave the women in *Footholds* a vast amount of material from which to choose. A tremendous diversity is evident in the pieces presented. Known

writers like Adrienne Rich are included as well as more obscure writers like Agnes Smedley. In addition to fictional pieces, the company dramatized real life situations and interviews in the show.

Footholds is divided into two parts. The first deals with women in a variety of situations. Some of the issues dealt with are motherhood, women in prison, women in relation to academia, and women in transition. Sexism is, of course, an underlying theme in most of the pieces but one was particularly effective. *The City to a Young Girl*, by Judy Caravaglia is a poem about the degradation of women specifically by sexist men and in a larger sense by a predominately chauvinistic society. Margaret Berger interprets the poem initially as a monologue and is then joined by the other cast members in a defiant dance choreographed by Lydia Sargent. During the dance Ms. Sargent portrays sexism in the form of a male heckler. In a frenzy of movement, he is ultimately defeated by the women he is mocking. The impact of this piece was augmented by the visual image of four raised fists and four determined yet triumphant faces.

Footholds' first half showed women confined in a sense within certain situations. It laid the groundwork for the solutions and alternatives presented in the second half. The large scale production of sex was the theme of an adaptation of an interview with cosmetic factory workers. When ques-

(Continued on page 17)

Berkeley Women's Music Collective Infuses Fury



Photo by Nancy Wechsler

The Berkeley Women's Music Collective performed at Harvard's Paine Hall last weekend. From left to right: Bonnie, Nancy, Susan, Debra

By Sara Annie Fisher

Because I believe in the strength and vision of my perceptions, but not in the omniscience of my opinions, I have listened to many sisters' responses to the Berkeley Women's concert. In this way, the following review is a collective expression, much as I felt the spirit of the concert to be.

Here were women's voices
"...singing old songs with new words,
plucked and fingered by women outside the law."
—Adrienne Rich

"We women been waiting all our lives
for our sisters to be our lovers
Hey look around you now
Ain't you glad we finally found each other
And we can sing it loud now
I am gay and proud!"

And so resounded the vigorous music of The Berkeley Women's Music Collective as they played to a full, indeed, sell-out gathering of women in Harvard's Paine Hall on Friday eve, October 28th. The finely-produced concert, put together by Allegra, was a benefit for Transition House, a shelter for battered women in the Boston area. Besides the music within the event, important space was given for groups and causes of women to share their own work and striving, in the form of announcements and information tables. The Berkeley Collective's *San Francisco Bank Song* spoke of women's endurance in our work to survive and to unite ourselves.

"don't look behind, don't look behind
no one's gonna follow
hope no one's gonna follow you
at the day's end
she'd come home tired, change on the run
meetings to attend
trying to protect what she has won
her spirit to lend
sisters trying to make their way alone."

Women in struggle who realize they "Got To Get The Hell On Out Of Here" were the substance of songs first sung in the evening. An unexpected and wonderful prelude to the concert was a chorale of Transition House staff women. They presented a solid harmony about hard-fought triumphs of battered women.

The political strands of women's culture are weaving the forms of women's concerts. The "big-name band" notion seems to have little place in a flourishing culture which believes

in our commonality, rather than in our disconnectedness. Hopefully, with this belief we are creating fewer tokens and trophies of ourselves. The core of the concert was not the Berkeley Women's Band. The dimensions of the concert were formed by the involvement of all who were present. Distinctions between production, performers, and audience seemed to be lessened. There was a cohesion which occurred for me, although I felt that we all could have done much more towards eliminating the "sit, listen and applaud" dynamic.

One of the Allegra women, Ann Wilson, feels that women's involvement in our own music is altering the relationship between those of us who strum and warble, and those of us who listen and sing along.

"The women's music scene is readily changing the relationship between 'performers' and 'audience,' even to the extent that these words are perhaps no longer appropriate. Women feel much more involved with music than we ever have before. We now experience women's lyrics, women playing all instruments, women doing the technical work for our albums and concerts."

"Because of this involvement, there is a sense of possibility which we are infused with. This is part of what helped us to get together and do this concert. We had very little experience among us before this, but it was our sense of involvement, our love of music, and the change in roles which no longer held us separate from and awed by 'performers,' that enabled us to create this concert."

The production of this benefit concert for Transition House was an important innovation. There were five women on the crew of Allegra, only one of whom was a Transition House staff woman. Barbe Nesto of Transition House described this novel way of concert-producing. "So much energy is being put into Transition House surviving. By forming a production group whose members, except for me, were separate from Transition House, we took less vital energy from the House itself." Allegra plans to do more benefits in this way, which means that we shall have music and money, because of committed women, without depleting the energy of women committed to our other necessary work.

"there is peace in my heart
when I start, when I start
yes there is peace in my heart when I start...
but then the fury
you know the fury
it comes over me"

I try to learn to do everything
so I'm not stuck under no man's wing
don't want to owe my sweet life to no one
but when some man says 'move on son'
when he knows I'm a woman
you know that the fury you know the fury
comes over me"

The Berkeley Women's Music Collective has the fury that they sing about. Their band is composed of five women, all lesbians. They are four instrumentalists who all do vocals, and a sound woman, Jennifer Lego. Debbie Lempke is the drummer, and also played a solo song on guitar in the concert. Susann Shanbaum plays bass, acoustic guitar, and harmonica. Nancy Vogl also plays bass and guitar, as well as the saxophone. On the piano is Bonnie Lockhart. The Collective has been creating music together for four years. As a collective, they each write songs, play one another's music, and attempt to share their art and the stage equally.

The band began with the impact of "Gay and Proud," a song written by Debbie as her personal chronicle of birth, foster home, adoption, schooling, and coming out, with all of the rampant oppression in those life phases so painfully told in her song. She exults in her strength finally, and the need for all women to be fortified.

"I ain't sorry, I ain't sad
for all the years I've been had
strutting round like a heavy duty puff
now I know we got to get tough"

This common oppression, struggle, and strength was voiced in many of their songs. Bonnie's "Still Ain't Satisfied," a stalwart song of the women's movement, centers on the many gratuities and platitudes which women have been dealt, the lies that have been handed us in the name of tolerating "Women's Lib."

"But I still ain't satisfied
to set up centers for child care
and I still ain't satisfied
and while we work at slave wages
they brainwashed our kids at tender ages"

We're Hip, written by Janet Lampert and Debbie Lempke, and *Thorazene* by Susann were two of the most powerful songs in light of what is now happening in women's prisons and wards for women in mental institutions like Worcester State's proposed Ward for Violent Women.

"And in the prisons I've seen our sisters rising
they ain't been wasting, they've been organizing
they're hip to the bossman's game
when they get out they're gonna spark the flame"

These songs of imprisonment are being performed for imprisoned women themselves. The band is on a tour of the country. They played in many women's prisons, including a concert at Framingham the evening prior to the Paine Hall event. Debbie has written two more verses to *We're Hip* after going inside a women's prison in California, and considers this issue to be a primary one for her now. *Guilty Go Free* is also about women's incarceration, the innocence of the imprisoned poor and Third World peoples, and the whims of those who commit capitalist crimes with impunity.

The Bloods, another sort of feminist fortress in song, revolutionizes menstruation and the politics of women's self-help health care.

"Because you know your body is a workin' alright
if you had self-help you could watch all night
get your speculum at your neighborhood clinic
learn about your cervix and what's in it
there's a new day comin' when you got the bloods
again"

One of the band's more personal songs about intimate relationships was Nancy's *Mercy Me, I'm Lonely Tonight*, a piercing, nearly heartrending song about the desolation of lost love. The song plaintively ends, "But the love I have for Jesus ain't the

love I need tonight/ Won't you please return, my light, my love, my life?"

A song which I appreciated for its political content rather new to women's music was Nancy's ecology-oriented California song about the air, the Redwoods, and the ocean.

The Berkeley Collective's musical abilities were keen. Their individual musicianship was often more alive for me than the effect of the band as a whole. Susann's harmonica was vibrant and rousing to the delightful point of boisterousness. And although I felt that she was not quite as improvisational or loose with her style as she might have been, Bonnie's piano chords and accompaniment were very fine.

The versatility of the band, an integral part of its collective form, was a facet of their performance which I enjoyed. Debbie's flux from trap set to guitar for "Nicole," a beautiful "camp song" about her relationship formed with a woman while in a camp run and counselled by lesbians, was a pleasing surprise. I questioned why Nancy did not play more saxophone throughout, and why, when she did play in the last song, it was for only a few measures. This inclusion of a new instrument at such a late moment in the concert seemed to hamper rather than heighten the piece because of its abruptness and brevity.

In some songs, particularly those dealing with personal relationships, I felt a weakness in the lyrics. It seemed their music was sometimes impeded and made inert by the wording. Janet's *Song* about Susann's long-ago best friend, so important for its support of younger women coming out to themselves, family, and friends, seemed hackneyed to me, both musically and lyrically. This weakness of words often diffracted the statements I felt the band was making. I wanted a depth and a freshness from them, expectations which glided into the concert hall with me. My anticipations were largely greeted and fulfilled. The Collective in their music held true to the Fury which awakens and changes us all.

"Gonna try to buy the women out
gonna prey on our fear and our doubts
we're hip to the bossman's game
get together cause we're not to blame"

we've got to get away from the things that
they say
and they say every day of your life"

In order to regain the essence of the concert, I listened to The Berkeley Women's Music Collective's album, co-ordinated by the band itself in 1976, and distributed by Olivia Records. In listening, I found that I have been a glad witness to a beautiful process of evolution in the collective's musical abilities, lyric-writing, and political communication. The constraint and tightness of their music on the album had risen in some much-needed flame, and I felt their greater fluidity in concert.

The band has enough new material now that they want to cut another album, but do not have the funds to do so. They encouraged women to write their support and enthusiasm to Olivia and Wise Women Records, in the hopes of a possible contract.

The Berkeley Women's Music Collective sings as, and for lesbians. Nancy Vogl speaks of this in their music.

"The focus of our music is on support for lesbians. Lesbians have never had music that spoke to our own experiences. As a band we are moving towards integrating women's struggles with a lot of the economic/political structure and reality of the states and the world. We are very concerned with the economic condition of the world. But the emphasis of our music is still support for lesbians."

The Traumas of High School, Carrie and Myself

By Pat M. Kuras

For those of you who have not been properly introduced, Carrie White had her beginning in a novel by Stephen King that was entitled *Carrie*. In 1976, the book was made into a movie starring Sissy Spacek. That movie has been re-released recently.

Perhaps you remember the ads: "If you've got a taste for terror . . . take Carrie to the Prom." Yes, Carrie was the shy high school girl that annihilated her mother, teachers and classmates via her telekinetic powers. Thanks to media hype, this sounded like a dandy little horror movie. True, there was plenty of gore. (And one nifty shock scene, guaranteed to leave everyone screaming, was tacked on to the movie's tail end.) *The New Yorker* went so far as to call *Carrie* "the best scary-funny movie since *Jaws*." It is regrettable that the film was played up as a horror flick. With this type of pre-release billing, vast portions of the movie-going public decided to ignore it totally.

Carrie spoke to me on a highly personal level. High school was a lonely and painful time for me, as it was for Carrie White. I had few friends and was always considered a loner. Carrie, in turn, was ostracized from her peer group: she was the class nurd. There's one in every school. An awkward, self-conscious kid has the misfortune to become the class joke — constant teasing and humiliation, never a kind word and complete banishment from all social functions. So it was for Carrie.

For the lonely teenager who has been plagued this way, *Carrie* represents the ultimate power-tripping fantasy of getting even with those tormentors.

I'm sure that wherever this film played, there were plenty of "Carries" in the audience watching and silently cheering along.

The straight world can be merciless, especially during that period known as high school. For the young dyke (such as myself, a half-decade ago) high school can be a lonely void. In the small town where I was raised, gays were either non-existent or very well-hidden. I'm sure my peers at least suspected I was gay. I received more than my fair share of teasing. I tried to include myself in school functions, but it never worked out quite right. (At football games while the entire stadium would be intent on watching the class jock score a touchdown, I'd be intent on cruising the cheerleaders.)

Like Carrie White, I was a lonely virgin that yearned for (sigh!) a high school sweetheart. It was impossible for me to find another dyke until I came to the Big City. For Carrie, the very notion that she should have a paramour was totally laughable. As a well-meaning teacher told Tommy Ross, "Don't you think you'll look just a little bit silly at the Prom when you arrive with Carrie White?" Repressed sexuality in the high school student usually leads to some attempt to achieve self-satisfaction. In my teen-aged years, I had the ignorance to believe that masturbation was something only boys could do. (No doubt this was due to reading David Reuben's *Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Sex*.) Carrie was a bit more enlightened, yet fearful. In King's novel, there is an incident where Carrie fondles her own breasts, only to stop abruptly, overcome with guilt. "Evil . . .



oh, it was. Momma had told her . . . it made her feel weak and dissolving."

To escape my unhappiness, I became an avid reader. Among the crop of paperback bestsellers, I managed to obtain copies of *The Fox* and *City of Night*. If I had also read *The Well of Loneliness* at that tender impressionable age, I'd probably have wished I were dead. In 1970 there weren't many decent role models for a lonely dyke. I remember having a dog-eared copy of a psychiatrist's book dealing with "female homosexuality." As I recall, there was a section entitled: Curing the Deviant.

Carrie's own role-models were nothing to brag about either. There are quaint bits of insight in King's book. For example, good guy Tommy Ross

gives a brief soliloquy on high school not being "very important," and the only time it does seem important is when old buddies get together to drink it up and reminisce about the time they won the homecoming game, etc. He admits that his life will probably go nowhere. He'll probably "end up working at . . . dad's car lot . . . get married to some nagging broad, and always own last year's model, vote Democrat . . ." Here, Tommy painted

(Continued on page 16)

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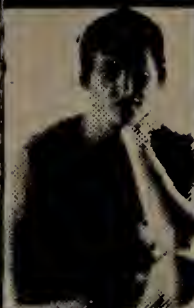
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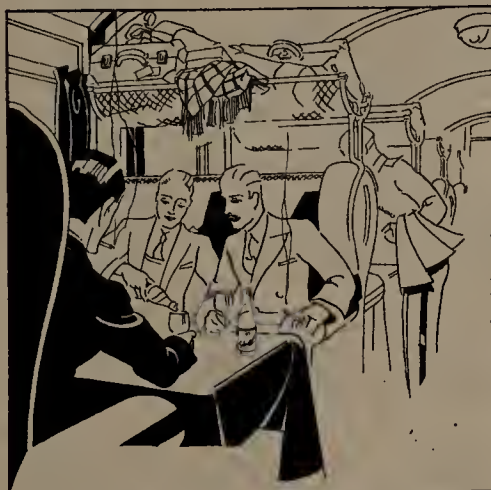
The Dark Lady by Louis Auchincloss.
Houghton Mifflin, Boston; 208 pp.

By Robert Etherington

One of the pleasant side-effects of the Gay Movement is the increased willingness of even straight authors to include gay characters (and not always villainous ones) in their works. I am delighted that one of the very best authors in America, Louis Auchincloss, has taken advantage of our society's slightly (very slightly) less benighted attitudes toward homosexuality and included not one but several gay characters in his latest novel, *The Dark Lady*. I suspect, however, that my delight perhaps won't be shared by movement gays for Auchincloss is a chronicler of a class, the WASP aristocracy, not now, or rather, never politically fashionable — certainly not since the days of Edith Wharton and Henry James.

Auchincloss is indeed unique in contemporary American letters. No one else would so challenge the democratic *Zeitgeist* as to write such a remarkable number of novels and short stories on essentially the same subjects: "good" society, the well-to-do, the well-bred, and the preservation of their fortunes. Since at least the Great Depression, the rich and powerful have existed in literature (as opposed to gossip pulp novels) largely as villains — and stereo-

typical ones at that. Auchincloss, with his considerable talent and insider's perspective on the WASP aristocracy, tells us so much more than any mere polemicist could about those who control our nation's wealth. He is modern America's Balzac, with that master's preoccupation with money and those who have it — a subject no doubt considered at best frivolous, at worst hopelessly reactionary in this, our demotic age.



The Dark Lady dissects the family of Judge Irving Stein, master of Broadlawns, a great estate in Rye. Into this grand family is introduced Elesina Dart, a vastly beautiful and ambitious climber, "an actress in search of a setting." She is a protege of Ivy Trask, a skillful intriguer who excels in helping climbers on the social ladder (a favorite

Auchincloss character). Under Ivy's management, Elesina insinuates her way into Judge Stein's bed, first as mistress, then as wife and ruler of Broadlawns. Not content with such a triumph, she takes as her lover David Stein, the Judge's own son by his first marriage. When the Judge discovers her duplicity, he drops dead, but Elesina inherits everything anyway and uses her new fortune to win a seat in Congress.

Of particular interest to gay readers is David Stein (whose beauty equals Elesina's) and his relationship, an *amitie amoureuse*, with Eliot Clarkson, WASP aristocrat and a man of many discontents, one of them being a deep but unrequited passion for David. Both David and Eliot see themselves as outsiders, the latter because he is gay and politically at odds with his own class; the former because he is half Jewish and a victim of the discreet but very real anti-Semitism which suffuses the Old Rich (and which Auchincloss is uncompromising in exposing). Though a gay reader can hardly miss it, Auchincloss is not explicit about Eliot's homosexuality until the final section of the novel, after David has been killed in the Second German War. Eliot is a victim of the eternal predicament of the closeted gay: he loves deeply but silently, fearfully. Indeed, he is afraid to admit, even to himself, that he loves at all, until it is too late. He sees his life as an "obscene tragedy and himself as a kind of Hamlet in drag." It is a touching portrait, made

all the more so by a contrasting gay character, Giles Bennett, several years Eliot's junior and far more open about his homosexuality. Giles attaches himself to Elesina (by way of the ubiquitous Ivy) and his very brazenness helps him to rise high in her court at Broadlawns. Of the two, Eliot, though much closeted, is by far the more attractive and interesting character.

Auchincloss, in addition, cannot resist a dig at all the Joseph McCarthy-Whittaker Chambers closet queens of this hypocritical world. He introduces a third gay character, Julius Schell, a right-wing Republican and ardent Red-baiter. It is a thoroughly nasty portrait, redolent of Harold Carswell getting caught in a tea-room, and a timely reminder that hypocrisy is not a straight monopoly.

Of course, *The Dark Lady* is not a "gay" novel. It is, like all of Auchincloss' fiction, a witty, biting chronicle of greed and social climbing; of the roles people play to get into or remain in the "best" society. Henry James once remarked that the provincialism of American letters is a concomitant of her democracy, her lack of a well-defined class system. Climbers, greedy relatives, complicated and disputed wills and the elaborate masks worn by those in society were, for James, the stuff of which novels were made. Auchincloss, alas, is the only modern American novelist who agrees and who has the talent to keep alive the now unfashionable Novel of Manners. He is altogether invaluable.

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Family Favors Lesbian Teachers

By Stephanie St. John

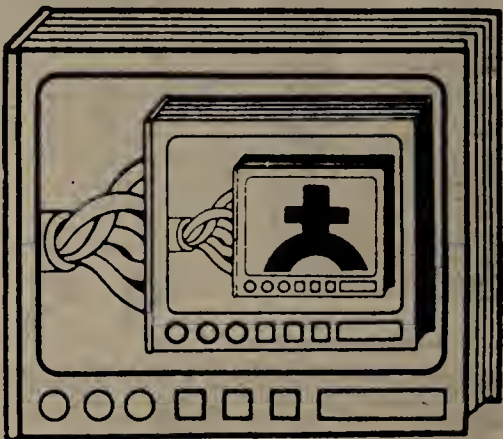
I watched "Family" with great discomfort, not because it was anti-lesbian (it wasn't), but because it hit too close to home. I also teach. The episode, aired in Boston on Nov. 1 at 10 p.m. on ABC (Channel 5), was built on the conflict between a bigoted "concerned" parent and a dedicated high school English teacher who happened to be a lesbian.

The bigoted mother, Mrs. Palmer, presents the facts of the case at a parents' association meeting. While in California, Miss Jessup, the English teacher, had been charged with seducing a student. She had not faced the charges. She had run instead. Now Miss Jessup has secured another teaching job and is at the high school attended by Mrs. Palmer's daughter, hence Mrs. Palmer has concluded that Miss Jessup must be fired or made to resign. After all, isn't she a threat to everyone's daughter? She may assault the young females, or worse yet, she may influence them.

While Mrs. Palmer mounts her campaign against Miss Jessup, the more important thread of the story unwinds. Buddy, the charming and vivacious teenage daughter of the Lawrence family, has fallen for . . . learning. Miss Jessup has inspired Buddy and made her want to read. That, in the world of academia, is worth several Oscars. Buddy is ridiculed by school-mates for "mooning" around Miss Jessup, and she is told that Miss Jessup "likes girls the way boys like girls," but she continues to think of her mentor as a fine teacher who happens to be gay. What destroys Buddy's remarkable clarity of perception and loyalty is the rumor about the seduction of a previous student. Buddy eavesdrops and hears Miss Jessup explaining what was behind the rumor.

Unfortunately, she hears only a fragment of the truth. (Had she been a more efficient keyhole listener, she would have found out that there had been no seduction.)

The rumor, now full-blown into a dark mystery, so thoroughly disturbs Buddy that she is repelled by the teacher's placing her hands on Buddy's shoulders. A week earlier such a gesture would have been accepted as friendship; now it is a threat. Because of her temporary confusion about her



own identity and the teacher's past, Buddy rejects Miss Jessup. Miss Jessup, therefore, resigns. It looks as if the forces of Mrs. Palmer (read Anita B.) have won.

If the story had ended there, we would have had a rather grim tale of a lesbian who ran away twice, refusing the challenge implicit in being a lesbian in a homophobic society. Each of us is an educator, whether we like it or not. Miss Jessup calls herself a "homosexual" (why not a lesbian, I don't know), and says she, like all gays, had two companions — fear and despair. No doubt that line is there to gain sympathy from the audience, but I cringed when I heard it. I have never had a moment's despair about being gay, but

I do know what fear is. However, when she said that, and Buddy's parents looked at her with such kindness, I was angry and ashamed. Angry because fear has ruled me on some occasions, just as it made Miss Jessup, though innocent, run from the seduction charges. I was ashamed because I should not want sympathy for being vulnerable, although I have on occasion accepted such sympathy. What I really want is cooperation and legislation that will allow us to keep our jobs.

Miss Jessup's lines disturbed me once more towards the end of the program when she explained to Buddy her reasons for resigning. She decided to leave the profession because if students were drilled by their parents to focus only on her private life, the students could not hear what she was teaching. This barrier to her effectiveness as a teacher is dramatically shown both in Buddy's rejection of her and in a classroom scene in which two teenage girls are so busy making comments about Miss Jessup's being a lesbian that they miss a fine lecture on Carson McCullers. To be invalidated both as a professional and as a human being is disastrous, unbearable and, hopefully, infuriating. The last makes us fighters, and educators. Unless we teach people what the effects of oppression are, and unless we help them open up to ideas and love, we are at fault.

Being inconsequential is essentially the experience we face with Miss Jessup. This is worse than the fear of exposure, because it is self-annihilating, not just inhibiting.

Happily, Mrs. Lawrence helps Buddy work through her questions about herself and Miss Jessup, and Buddy therefore is able to express her need for a fine teacher. Buddy's appreciation of her work encourages Miss

Jessup to stay on at the school and fight Mrs. Palmer and her cohorts.

An interesting note about the program is that the whole matter is left in the hands of women. Men are not in power. The father is supportive, but his role is minimal. Buddy's brother Willie is involved in a subplot which shows the audience that visual "rumors" can be as damaging as aural ones. Willie sees his sister Nancy with a married man and assumes the worst.

Perhaps some people would fault the program because Miss Jessup was too lithe and attractive, Buddy was unusually brave and the Lawrences particularly sane. I was pleased by those things, and by the attempt to deal in a mature way with the gay teacher issue.

I have read with pain the reports of gay teachers being dismissed, and I know the program was resolved with an unlikely sense of victory. Yet the program was very realistic because it reminded us that what was really at stake was not a job, but a person's identity. It showed us the effects of rumor and fear.

Our enemies are often amorphous and insidious. The only answer to Dade Counties and teacher dismissals is more Stonewalls. As Miss Jessup's story indicates, some Stonewalls are fought inside us, some outside. We must, of course, continue to fight, and — what is the same thing — to educate.

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TV Twaddle — Hollywood Trashes Gay Men

By Robert Etherington

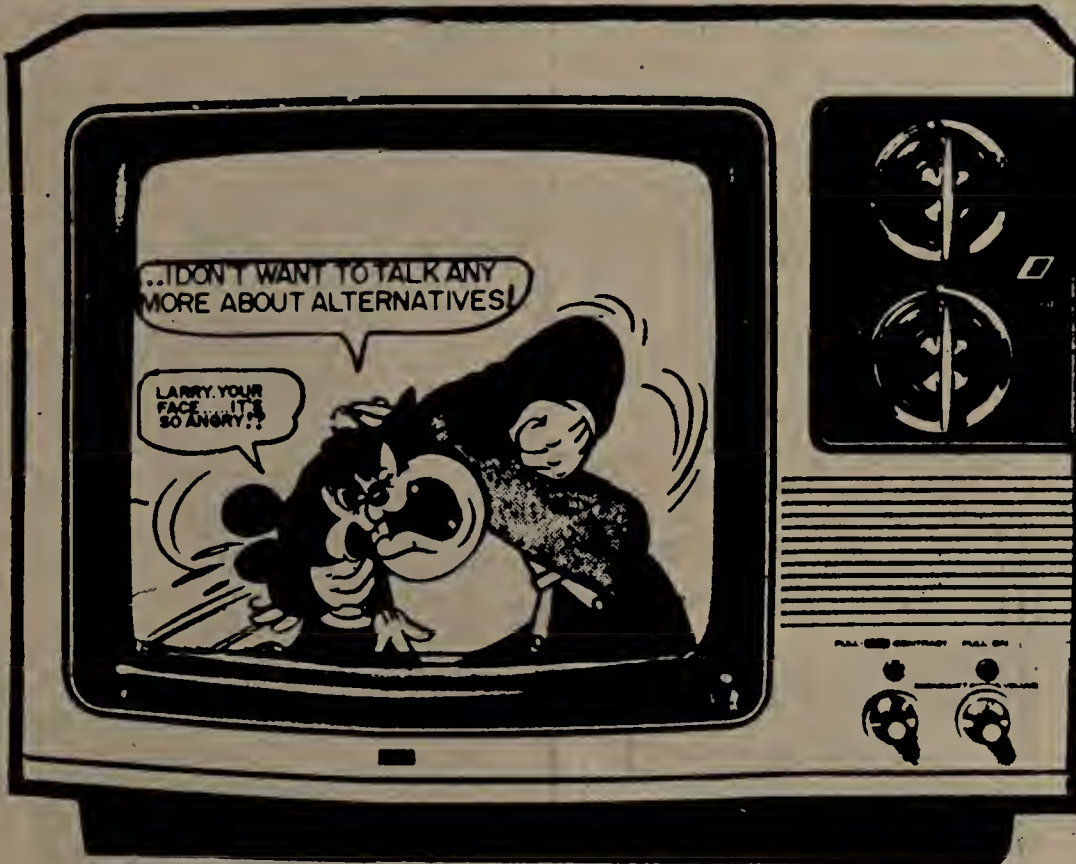
This season's television programing is more than usually loathsome — so much so that I feel degraded even discussing the foul subject. However, we must be especially vigilant this year, now that Hollywood has discovered homosexuality, making up for years of neglect by filling the air with an unprecedented number of gay characters and situations — most of them dreadful.

Of the three networks, ABC seems to be the greatest offender. There is the infamous *Soap* with an openly gay character who, we are told, won't be allowed to remain gay for long, but will meet a girl, fall in love, and thereby be "cured."

Yet another sitcom, *Three's Company*, features a straight man pretending to be gay so he can live openly with two women without offending his landlord. There is the unrelenting use of *double entendre* about "fruits" and "fairy godmothers" which has led TV critic Robert MacKenzie to remark, "The gags remind me of old-style ethnic jokes that used to confirm our notions about what 'they' were like."

But it is the cops-and-robbers programs that are the most disagreeable. Now that the Parent-Teachers Association and the American Medical Association are breathing down the networks' necks, insisting that there be less open violence on TV, broadcasters have evidently decided to use "kinky" sex to titillate their audiences (and homosexuality seems to be endlessly titillating for Middle Americans).

A few weeks ago, *Starsky and*



Hutch, one of the more mindless of the bang-bang shows, dealt with a closeted gay cop who was murdered, supposedly by a nasty hustler, but really by another cop. The victim's homosexuality was treated as if it were a terrible character flaw. Early scenes showed him writhing with misery, unable to have sex unless hopelessly drunk. His long, long suffering wife referred tearfully to his "problem." And the denizens of the local gay bar (Why does Hollywood believe that gay life centers entirely around the bars?) are depicted as all-around loonies, especially a bitchy female impersonator

whom the show's writers wouldn't allow to be at least funny, if not agreeable.

Out of what must have been rather back-handed deference to the Gay Media Task Force, our intrepid heroes, while investigating the crime, paid a visit to the campaign headquarters of an openly gay candidate for a local office. This gave the show's writers an opportunity to trot out a "clean-cut" gay man to deliver a lecture on the Oppression of Homosexuals. Starsky responded unctuously that gays should have the right to campaign for public office, (though I suspect he would be

mightily displeased if any actually got elected) but then wondered why all these gays had to wear their sexual orientation "on their sleeves." (Why does no one complain that the relentlessly macho Starsky and Hutch wear heterosexuality on *their* sleeves?) Evidently those who write the dialogue don't realize that *only* if gays are extremely open about their homosexuality can there be any progress for gay rights. Just as Blacks had to, in effect, exaggerate their blackness to sustain them in their long battles, so we must exaggerate our sexuality for what will no doubt be even longer battles.

Starsky and Hutch, though beyond hope, has not been the worst offender in this dismal season. The regrettably popular *Baretta*, starring that grossly overrated Marlon Brando-John Garfield imitator Robert Blake, has just presented a program involving violent chickenhawks. A teenage hustler is sadistically murdered by an almost supernaturally evil man and Baretta sets out to catch the "dirty rat." He enlists the aid of Tommy, another young hustler, who is a weeping hysteric. In real life he would be much too weak to survive more than five minutes on the streets. Baretta, after rounding up the bad guy (who has been busily persuing the hapless Tommy), finds the boy a foster home and also introduces him to that favorite American panacea — psychiatry.

Throughout this silly melodrama, all the gay characters are depicted as predatory "rats" and "freaks" who are interested only in seducing, indeed murdering, sweet children (who are

(Continued on page 16)

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carrie

(Continued from page 12)

a true picture of what has happened to many of my own former classmates.

In Carrie's high school world, the women were conniving, manipulative harpies. One classmate, Sue, was guilt-stricken, and as a goodwill gesture she urged Tommy to take Carrie to the Prom. Another, Chris, was the epitome of evil as she seduced her greaser boy-friend into co-operating with her plot to destroy Carrie White.

If Chris hadn't pulled the cord that tipped the bucket of blood, could Carrie have grown up to be a happy heterosexual? Sissy Spacek seems to think so. In an interview, she stated that she definitely could see Carrie White and Tommy Ross hitting it off as a couple. About the Prom sequence, prior to the monstrous practical joke, Sissy said, "I think [Tommy] was so surprised with Carrie that he forgot she was the nurd. If anyone had tried to relate to her, they would have known she wasn't."

True, Carrie had feelings, but I fear Ms. Spacek is an incurable romantic. In the real world, Carrie would never have been able to transform as smoothly from timid mouse to radiant queen as she did in the film. And Tommy Ross, I imagine, would quickly tire of this easily-intimidated young woman. As I have stated earlier, *Carrie* is a superb fantasy film for the lonely teenaged outsiders. It is the stuff of which dreams are made — love, adoration and sweet victory. (Believe me, no one in the audience cheered louder than I when Carrie meted out her revenge on Chris and Billy. I can relate to Carrie's pain all too well.)

Is the film, *Carrie*, worth seeing? Feminists, be forewarned. This film is chock full of women-hating energy. Women attack each other both verbally and physically. However, for people who experienced an intense loneliness



Photo by Tom Bloom

New "Joy" teacher: Dance instructor Clover Mathis has joined the faculty of the Joy of Movement Center. Mathis, a former member of the Dance Theater of Harlem and the Alvin Ailey Dance Co., is a consultant and choreographer of the International Ballet Competition held in Moscow every four years. His choreography will be performed by the dance company, *Impulse* November 11-12 and 18-19 at 8:30 p.m. at the Joy of Movement Center, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge.

or the sense of being an outsider during those four years known as high school, *Carrie* might be well-worth seeing.

Attention must be given to the actress. Sissy Spacek gave a stupendous performance as the awkward, self-conscious teenager. Dialogue was totally unnecessary as Spacek conveyed Carrie's sense of taunted isolation. Downcast eyes, slumping shoulders, stringy hair tumbling across her face —

Spacek as the little gremlin with barely a remaining thread of self-respect.

High school has never been easy on the outcast. Consider me the voice of experience, if you will. The actual horror in this film is Carrie's own loneliness. Sissy Spacek's portrayal is terribly relentless because it is so true to life. She alone makes the film worthwhile.

t.v. twaddle

(Continued from page 15)

supposedly only poor little lambs who have lost their way). Did Anita Bryant have a hand in the script? Both she and nearly everyone else seem unaware that teenage hustlers can be and frequently are as predatory as their johns.

My admittedly nasty description of this program in no way means I am unaware that there are murderous chickenhawks and all too many despairing teenage gays (and straights) in desperate need of help. Too often, when ignorant parents discover their son/daughter is gay, they throw them out onto the streets. Is it surprising that the children then turn to hustling, pornography and drugs? There is a great need for counseling and guidance centers specifically for gay teenagers who have been abandoned by their boorish parents. But state stinginess and reactionary opposition (not to mention apathy among gays themselves) have made the establishment of such centers difficult if not impossible. Certainly cheap, melodramatic shows like *Baretta* only compound the problem by implying that teenage hustling should be left entirely to the police.

Can anything be done about these sorry programs? One could write letters (though I suspect most TV network executives cannot read). Of course, the future is bringing a special program on Leonard Matlovich, but it will have to be altogether stupendous to blot out unpleasant memories of *Baretta* and *Starsky and Hutch*. I suppose as a last resort we can always watch the radio.

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Paradise Found! — New Bar Opens

By Mel Horne

For those of you who are familiar with Paradise only through the writings of John Milton, you might still think that all's lost. Cheer up! On Sunday, October 23rd, Paradise was found! And of all places, right on Massachusetts Avenue at the corner of Albany Street — just a few blocks from the main building complex of MIT.

Ably managed by Richard de Jubinville, Paradise is an old, cozy neighborhood bar gone gayward. It has tiled floors, dark paint, a long row of bonnet-shaped lights along a well-used bar and a superb photograph of Eugene Sandow, the grand-daddy of the modern physical culture movement.

Sunday's opening was comfortably crowded with men and women from the gay movement, the Cambridge and MIT communities and a sprinkling of Chaps-Styx regulars. A nice mix, a good opening. If, as some architects argue, the physical environment does influence behavior, we can expect happenings at Paradise to be down-to-earth and without pretensions.

Reviewer's Note/ Might not some new gay bar in Cambridge want to rescue us poor souls, whose ears are nearly Grace-Jonesed-to-death, with a little salvation from Billie Holliday, Edith Piaf, Sarah Vaughn, Dinah Washington, et al.?



Photo by Angela Russo

Jack Rubin, Bob White, and Stan Sorrentino enjoying the festivities at the opening of the Paradise Cafe in Cambridge.

Theater Group

(Continued from page 10)

tioned as to why she is working for a place that sells sex, one woman categorically states in the last line that she is doing it to get the money "to get the hell out."

In a powerful interpretation Judith Black portrayed a woman from East Boston who all but single handedly organized a successful community protest. This piece stressed political action by exploring one woman's indomitable will. True to the actual situation, Ms. Black's performance exuded power and strength.

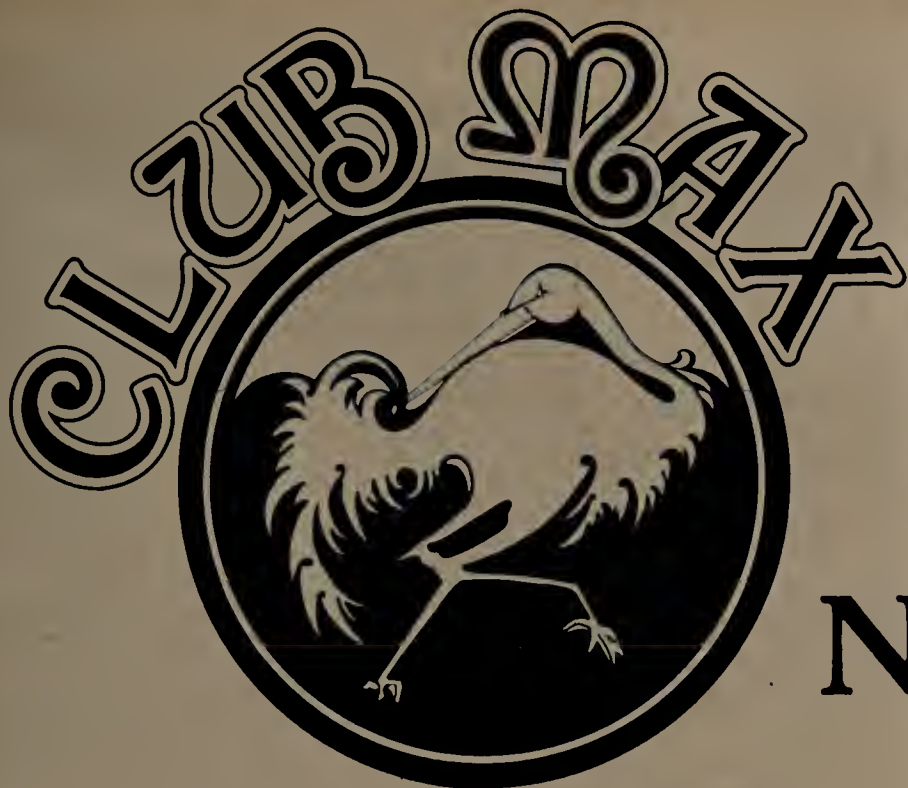
An excerpt of a speech made by

Robin Morgan in 1970 is a pivotal point in *Footholds*. Titled "Goodbye to all That," it is an angry and impassioned call to action. It is a "Goodbye" to theoretical discussions about social change.

Footholds negates class distinctions. The 21 pieces portray women's struggles regardless of economics and social position. Though diverse, the pieces have a real interdependency on each other. *Footholds* is an evolutionary process. The audience is carried through from beginning to end on the strength and ability of the performers

and the relationship of the separate pieces to the whole of the production. *Footholds* is certainly broad enough to appeal to not only women, but everyone defined by our societal problems.

The Newberry Street Theatre Collective gives a much needed credibility to political theater. Their presentation of *Footholds* is beautifully acted, at times even inspiring. The collective is dedicated to presenting quality, relevant theater. Both the collective and their most recent production epitomize the dictionary definition of *Footholds*: "a firm basis for further progress or development."



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personals

PRECIOUS

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Terry Bruno how is your love life in Portland, Maine at Rolands Bar. From Barbara Rice. (20)

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY LINDA

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GWF wants very aggressive woman to teach her what it's all about. Write and send photo GCN Box 841. (22)

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PJM

Miss you and think of you often. How are you? When are you coming back? N

THEATER CHARGE

May I take your order? What order! May I take your temperature, your wash, your etc. See what happens when there ain't no Wedgie shows???? Maybe it would be better if Don Rickles and Betsy Boop returned. Cheers.

GWF looking for Fem 31-40. If you consider yourself a challenge, answer my ad. Must like driving. No heavy drugs. Like kids. Send photo. Write P.O. Box 77, Fitchburg, MA 01420. (21)

CLOSET WOMEN

If you care about what happens to gays and want to contribute in some way, please contact Nancy at GCN Box K77. Give me some non-revealing way of getting in touch with you. Please make suggestions about how you think women in the closet can make some impact on the political scene without being exposed or uncomfortable in any way. Thanks very much. (c)

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WM 20, 5'6", 130, brown hair, hazel eyes. No friends or family on outside. Need help and friends. Will answer all. Dale Collins 144-744, P.O. Box 511, Columbus, OH 43216. (18)

5'8", 140. Have no one to write to me. Please write Milton A. Dotson, 021404, C-44, P.O. Box 221, Raiford, FL 32083. (18)

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BM, 25, serving 15 yrs. Out 78 or 79, looking for someone very fem to write. Also need new place to relocate. Thomas Sherman, 041243, P.O. Box 747, Apt. 21-3208, Starke, FL 32091. (18)

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organizations

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In New Jersey, the Gay Activist Alliance/Morris County meets every Monday at 8:30 p.m. using facilities of Unitarian Fellowship, Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown, NJ. Info: (201) 884-0653; 347-6234.

LUTHERANS
ALC, LCA AND Mo. Uniting for justice, love, understanding in our church. Lutherans Concerned (for gay people), Box B-19114A, Los Angeles, CA 90019.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST GAY CAUCUS OF NEW ENGLAND has been formed. We are an inclusive group of religious liberals who seek to provide opportunities for community building among gay people. We meet Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the Arlington St. Church. For more information, contact Bob Wheatly at the UUA Office of Gay Concerns, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108, or (617) 742-2100. (c)

The **GAY NURSES' ALLIANCE** needs your support if you are an RN, LPN/LVN, or student nurse. Basic membership is \$5.00 per year, which includes a subscription to our newsletter. (Contributions greater than \$5.00 are encouraged and appreciated). Many states are in need of coordinators to help organize local chapters. An apathetic nurse misses out on learning and growing experiences. Get involved! For more info, please write: GNA, P.O. Box 530, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA. 02117 (20)

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MONDAYS

11:30am — Lesbian Support Group meeting at Tufts Women's Center, 628-5000 ext. 702.
12 noon — Northeastern U. GSO meeting, Ell Center, rm. 349, 369 Huntington Ave., Boston. Everyone welcome.
5:30pm — Women's Community Health Center open house, 137 Hampshire St., Cambridge.
6-10pm — NH Lambda for Lesbians, phone (603) 228-8542.
6-8pm — Lesbian awareness consciousness-raising group. BU Women's Center, Basement of Sherman Union Bldg. 353-4240.
6:30-9pm — Gay Youth get together. MIT Walker Memorial, rm 306, 142 Memorial Dr., Cambridge. Social get together for gay teens 15-19.
6:30-8pm — Alcoholism discussion/education group for lesbians, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1145 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, MA, 661-1316.
6:30-8:30pm — Gay Health Services by appointment, Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St., Boston, 267-7573.
7pm — Gay alcoholics group, 10 Walnut St., Worcester, MA.
7-9pm — U. of Vermont Gay Switchboard, 656-4173.
7-10pm — UMass Gay Women's Caucus Hotline, 545-3438.
7-9pm — Yggdrasil Gay Gathering at Yggdrasil, 15 Gilbert Rd., Storrs, CT, (203) 486-4737.
7:30pm — UMass Amherst, Bisexual Women's Rap Group, Campus Center.
8pm — Lesbian Rap and Action Group, Cambridge Women's Center basement, (617) 354-8807.
8pm — Lesbian Rap at Women's Center, 215 Park St. NH.
8pm — GPC business meeting, Columbia U., Fernald Basement, Broadway at 115th St.
8-9pm — "None of the Above," WWUH-FM (91.3), West Hartford, CT, (203) 521-4553.
8pm — Lesbian Rap at Women's Center, 148 Orange St., New Haven, CT.
8:30pm — Gay Alanon (gay alcoholics). Info. 843-5300.
8:30pm — Hartford Gay Alcoholics Group, (203) 522-2646.
8:30pm — Gay Alliance at Yale, open meeting, basement Hendrie Hall, 165 Elm St., New Haven. 436-8945; public welcome.
9pm — Gay discussion group, Columbia U., Fernald basement, Broadway at 115th St.

TUESDAYS

9 am-2:30 pm — Brown U. Gay Lib, 305 Faunce House, Providence, RI, 863-3062.
1 pm — MCC Campus Ministry, RIC Student U., rm 312, Providence, RI.
4:30-9:30 — MCC open hours with M. Hougén, drop-in center, 2 Wellington St., Worcester, MA
6:30-8 pm — Women's Gay Collective, Women's Center, UConn, CT, (203) 486-4738
7 pm — Pot Luck Supper, 228½ Atwells Ave., Providence, RI.

7:30pm — Integrity, gay Episcopalians, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston.

8 pm — DOB women's rap, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA, 661-3633.

8 pm — Springfield Gay Alliance, First Unitarian Church, 245 Porter Lake Dr., Springfield.

8 pm — Martha's Vineyard gay women and men rap group, Info call 627-5370.

8:30 pm — Providence Gay Group of AA, Assumption Parish Hall, 791 Potters Ave., Providence, RI, 231-5853.

WEDNESDAYS

9am — "Gay News" radio on WHUS-FM, (91.7), Storrs, CT.

11am — Gay discussion group of Drop-In Center of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, MA; open to everyone.

6-10pm — NH Lambda for Lesbians; phone (603) 228-8542.

6:30-8:30pm — Gay Health Services, Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St., Boston, 267-7573.

7pm — Lesbian Support Group, UNH Women's Center, Durham, NH

7pm — Liberation Rap Group, (617) 756-0730.

7pm — Framingham Unicorn Society meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday; Box 163, Framingham, MA 01701.

7-9pm — GRAC Volleyball on Fenway (between rose garden and baseball diamond), Boston.

7-10pm — Gay Women's Collective meeting. Storrs, CT. Info: (203) 486-4738.

7-10pm — Gay Women's Collective, UConn Women's Center, (203) 486-4738.

7-10pm — Gay Women's Collective meeting, Storrs, CT. Info. (203) 486-4738.

7-9pm — University of Vermont Gay Switchboard, (802) 656-4173.

7:30pm — MCC midweek service, 11 Amity St., Hartford, CT.

8pm — Nashua, NH Area Gays rap session; call Ken (603) 673-5315 or Doug, 882-8732.

8pm — Discussion group for lesbians and gay men, Christ Church, 20 Carroll St., Poughkeepsie, NY.

8pm — HUM meets, Box 262, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

8pm — Yalesbians meeting, rm. B-8, Hendrie Hall, 165 Elm St., New Haven, CT, 436-8945.

8-10pm — Harvard-Radcliffe Gay Student Assoc. meeting. 2nd floor, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 498-2014.

8-10pm — URI Gay Social Club, 4th floor Group Room, Roosevelt Hall. (401) 792-5954 or Carl 789-8360.

8:30pm — Gay-straight Rap, UConn, Mental Health Clinic, (203) 486-4705.

9-12pm — Gay Social, Columbia U., Fernald Basement, Broadway at 115th St.

10:15pm — "Gaybreak Radio" on WMUA-FM (91.1) (1st and 3rd Wednesdays.)

10:15pm — "Gay News" radio on WHUS-FM, (91.7), Storrs, CT.

THURSDAYS

9 am-2:30 pm — Brown U. Gay Lib, 305 Faunce House, Providence, RI, 863-3062.

3:30 pm — UMass/Amherst, Gay Male Rap Group, Cottage B, near Worcester Dining Common.

5 pm — Brandeis Gay Alliance, Usdan Student Ctr., Conf. Rm. C, Brandeis U., Waltham, MA.

7 pm — Gay Alcoholics, St. Vincents Hospital, Worcester, MA.

7 pm — Game Night, 5 Junction St., Providence, RI, alternate weeks.

7-10 pm — UMass Gay Women's Caucus Hotline, 545-3438.

7:30 pm — Peoples Gay Alliance, UMass/Amherst, 8th floor of Campus Center.

8pm — Womenspace coffeehouse and workshop, 11 Amity St., Hartford, CT.

8 pm — Capital Dist. Gay Comm. Council, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12210.

8 pm — Dykes & Tykes, Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA, third floor, care for young people, 354-8807.

8-9:30 pm — Gay Alliance at UConn in Commons, rm 312.

8-9 pm — Lesbian Mother rap group, 21 Bay St., Cambridge, MA, 661-2537.

8:15 pm — Drinking problems rap group, HCHS, 80 Boylston St., rm. 855, Boston.

8:30 pm — Gay Women's Caucus, UMass/Amherst, 8th floor of Campus Center.

8:30 pm — Gay Alliance at Yale, Hendrie Hall basement, 436-8945, New Haven, CT.

9 pm — Emerson Homophile Society, rm. 24, 96 Beacon St., Boston.

FRIDAYS

7-8:30pm — GRAC swimming, Lindemann Cntr, Stanford St., across from Longfellow Towers.

7-9 pm — GRAC men's basketball, Lindemann Center, Hurley Bldg., Stanford St., Boston.

7:30pm — Am Tikva service, social at Frost Lounge, Ell Center, Northeastern Univ., 360 Huntington Ave., Boston

7:30 pm — Rap group for men and women, MGTF, 193 Middle St., Portland, ME.

7:30 pm — Lesbian Feminist Workshop, 21 Bay St., Cambridge, MA, Info call 783-9415.

7:30 pm — Gay get-together, downstairs round-room, Billings Center, U of VT, Burlington.

8-11 pm — Berkshire Community Gay Coalition, Unitarian Church, Wendell Ave., Pittsfield, MA, (413) 442-7033.

8 pm-12 — Brown U. Gay Lib, 305 Faunce House, Providence, RI, 863-3062.

8 pm — East Conn. Gay Alliance, 889-7530.

8 pm — "Somewhere Coffeehouse," MCC/Hartford, 11 Amity St., Hartford.

8:30 pm — Alcoholics Together, Our Lady of Victory Church, Isabella St., Boston.

9-12 pm — GAY coffeehouse, Hendrie Hall basement, 165 Elm St., New Haven, CT.



SATURDAYS

2 pm — Project Lambda Rap session for gay teenagers, 70 Charles St., Boston.

8 pm-12 — Brown U. Gay Lib, 305 Faunce House, Providence, RI, 863-3062.

10 pm-3 am — Worcester Hotline, 791-6562.

SUNDAYS

10:30 am — "Closet Space," WCAS-AM (740).

11 am — Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 West 14th St., NYC.

1-2:30pm — GRAC swimming, Lindemann Cntr, Stanford St., across from Longfellow Towers.

2 pm — Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 West 14th St., NYC.

2 pm — MCC/Worcester service, Central Cong. Church, 6 Institute Rd., Worcester.

2-4 pm — GRAC swimming at Lindemann Center, Stanford St., Boston.

2:30 pm — "Gay A's" Alcoholics Rap, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston.

4-6 pm — Gay Women's Group of Providence rap, (401) 831-5184.

5 pm — Dignity/Integrity Mass, St. Luke's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY.

5 pm — MCC/Boston Bible study group, 131 Cambridge St., 523-7664.

5:30 pm — Exodus Mass, St. Clement's Church, 1105 Boylston St., Boston.

5:30pm — Dignity service, Arlington St. Church, Boylston St. entrance, Boston

6:30 pm — Gay Church Services, 23 Franklin St., Bangor, ME.

7 pm — Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 West 14th St., NYC.

7 pm — MCC services, South Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH (first Sunday of month).

7 pm — MCC/Albany, NY, 332 Hudson Ave. (except first Sunday of month at 6 pm).

7 pm — MCC/NY worship, 201 W. 13th St. (corner of 7th Ave.).

7 pm — MCC/Boston, worship and fellowship, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston.

7:30pm — MCC worship, 425 College St., New Haven, CT.

7:30 pm — MCC/Hartford, 11 Amity St., Hartford, CT.

7:30 pm — "Come Out Tonight," radio WYBC-FM (94.3), New Haven, CT.

8 pm-12 — Brown U. Gay Lib, 305 Faunce House, Providence, RI, 863-3062.

8-12pm — NH Lambda for lesbians, phone (603) 332-4440

calendar

Deadline for all Calendar Items, Every-week and Quick Gay Guide is 12 noon each Wednesday for the next issue.

6 sun

Boston — Human Achievement Gay Education Service "Exploratory Meetings" for a Boston Gay Community Center. 3-5 pm at 96 Beacon St. Info: Al Bouchard 277-2484.

Boston — Unitarian-Universalist Gay Caucus meets every Sunday evening at the Arlington Street Church at 7 p.m. in Clarke Room. Enter at 355 Boylston St.

7 mon

Boston — Spaghetti dinner to benefit Project Lambda at Somewhere, 295 Franklin St., 7:30 p.m. Donation \$1.50.

8 tues

Allston — Women's International Folk Dance Party at Allston Congregational Church, Quint Ave. (near Comm. Ave. and Harvard St.). Expert teaching for all women whether you've danced before or not. \$1. Info Lynn, 783-9415.

9 wed

Boston — Teach-in on the human cost of the nuclear arms race. Guest speaker Sandra Graham. 7 p.m. The Fenway Center, 68 St. Stephen's St.

Cambridge — Discussion of the harassment of the women's health movement at Women's Community Health Center, 137 Hampshire St. 547-2302.

10 thur

Cambridge — State and Mind is sponsoring an open house for new members. State and Mind publishes journal and needs people with energy, ideas, commitment and layout skills. 7:30 p.m., Goddard-Cambridge, 186 Hampshire St., Inman Square. 776-7285.

11 fri

Storrs, CT — Disco sponsored by UConn Gay Alliance at 9 p.m. in Puerto Rican Center (next to Student Union), University of Connecticut. BYOB. Refreshments and mixers provided. \$1 students, \$1.50 nonstudents. (203) 486-2273.

12 sat

NYC — Gay Teacher's Association first meeting, 8 p.m., St. John's Church, 224 Waverly Place. (212) 789-8176.

Boston — Assertiveness Training Workshop for Women — daylong workshop. For info call Womanspace, 267-7992.

Boston — Gay Nurses' Alliance convention/conference, 9 a.m., Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St. Speakers: Elaine Noble, Norma Swenson, Wilma Scott Heide. Registration \$10.

Boston — Assertiveness Training two days (12&13) Sherman Union, BU, 775 Commonwealth Ave. Women's Educational and Resource Ent. 277-5944.

13 sun

Providence, RI — Fourth Anniversary Celebration for Dignity/Providence, 1:30 p.m. Town and Country Club. Info: (401) 724-0132.

Cambridge — Women against Violence against Women benefit featuring Sue Abrams of WCAS and Deb. Meagher. Bread & Roses, 134 Hampshire St. 8-10 pm. 254-7764.

Lynn — Gay civil liberties rally, 1 p.m. Lynn Commons at the bandstand. Info 595-0212, Frank.

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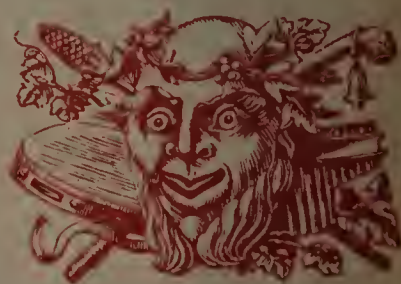
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